

CHOOSING A SECONDARY SCHOOL

Starting secondary school is a big step, and choosing the right school is an important part of the process.

Here's how you can plan ahead:

THE APPLICATION PROCESS

- In Year 6, you'll receive a preference form to list your chosen schools. The deadline for returning this form is typically in November.
- If you don't get your preferred school, there's an appeals process with clear deadlines. For advice about appeals, contact Shropshire SENDIASS.

THINGS TO CONSIDER WHEN CHOOSING A SCHOOL



- **Check the Ofsted report:** Visit the [Ofsted Reports website](#) or call 0300 123 4234 to request a copy
- **Request policies:** Ask schools for their SEN and anti-bullying policies.
- **Visit schools:** Attend open days or arrange visits to meet staff, including the SENCo (Special Educational Needs Coordinator).





WHAT TO LOOK FOR DURING A VISIT

- Are you made to feel welcome?
- Do staff show an interest in your child's needs?
- Is the school calm, well-organised, and inclusive?
- Are different cultures and religions represented?

- What SEN support does the school provide?
- Who can my child talk to if they're worried?
- Are staff trained to support children with additional needs?
- What support is available for navigating the school (e.g., visual timetables or buddy systems)?
- Can the school arrange extra visits before my child starts?
- Can my child access after-school clubs?

FOR CHILDREN WITH AN EHCP

If your child has an EHCP, their Year 5 Annual Review should include discussions about secondary school options.

- Focus on local schools, as these are the most likely to be offered.
- Take your child's EHCP and Annual Review reports to visits.
- Ask specific questions about how the school will meet your child's needs and discuss any necessary arrangements.

EHCP PROVISIONS MUST BE IN PLACE FROM DAY 1 AT THE NEW SCHOOL.

BOTH PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS SHOULD WORK TOGETHER TO SHARE INFORMATION AND ENSURE A SMOOTH TRANSITION.

