

## Questions to ask schools

Looking for a school that meets your child's needs?

There are specific considerations that are vital to facilitate successful learning and participation at school.

- ✓ Does the school / teachers have autism awareness training?
- ✓ Are all staff aware of the learning needs of students with ASD? How is this communicated to staff.?
- ✓ How do you accommodate students with additional learning difficulties?
- ✓ How welcoming is your school to my child's therapists visiting?
- ✓ Are all staff aware of the associated difficulties of autism- sensory difficulties, sleep disturbance, dietary needs, anxiety? What accommodations do you make with this in mind?
- ✓ Does the school implement an Individual Learning Plan for all students with ASD?
- ✓ Does the school implement consistent positive behaviour support strategies and behaviour motivators?
- ✓ Is the school behaviour discipline policy designed to take account of the child's understanding of behaviour and their personal motivation?
- ✓ Do teachers adopt autism inclusive communication strategies? (visual cues, daily schedules, visual timetables, lists, written notes, and use of language should be considered)
- ✓ Are visual supports (signs and symbols) in use in classrooms? –EG. Class rules, behavioural expectations
- ✓ Are there any break time / lunch clubs set up or strategies in place to support pupils on the autism spectrum during break / lunch periods?
- ✓ Is there a quiet room or area available to use as a means of calming when necessary?
- ✓ Are the students with ASD special interests catered for within the curriculum?
- ✓ Are other students aware of autism?
- ✓ Is there a buddy system to facilitate new friendships?
- ✓ What is the anti-bullying policy and is the school aware of the vulnerability of students with ASD to being bullied?
- ✓ Discuss the Transition plan!