



## Children and Young People's Services

# Questions When Considering a New Nursery/School/College for your Child/Young Person with Vision Impairment

Look at the educational environment, nursery/school/college -This document is for guidance only and outlines best practice.

### Indoor:

- General layout of the nursery/school/college environment – is the physical layout of the building accessible? Does it have controllable lighting in classrooms? (for example: dimmer switches/blinds at the windows)
- Is the nursery/school/college well sign-posted? Are toilets/classrooms and other areas where your child/young person will regularly visit, well signposted?
- The nursery/school/college's classrooms – are they well-organised and uncluttered? Is child/young person's work displayed well and accessible to all i.e. at an appropriate height to read?
- Will your child/young person be allowed to have their own seating position in class should this be necessary?
- Access to all of the curriculum including e.g. assemblies – seating and visual access may need to be discussed as your child/young person settles into nursery/school/college.
- Is the nursery/school/college able to adapt and meet your child/young person's needs in all parts of the curriculum/learning?
- Will your child/young person be able to manage moving between classrooms if necessary? Are all parts of the nursery/school/college accessible?
- Is the dining room clear/uncluttered and well signposted? Is there a choice of food? Is this clear to the child/young person? How are they informed of what's on the menu?

(This will depend if your child/young person is going to be 'hot' dinners or on sandwiches?)



## **Outdoor:**

- Is the outdoor space stimulating, uncluttered and well cared for? Are areas well defined or is it one large open space?
- How do children/young people collect and put away play/educational/sports equipment?
- Does the nursery/school/college operate a 'buddy' system, should this be necessary?

## **Support:**

- How are children/young people with Special Educational Needs supported in class? Are the children/young people included and involved?
- Does the nursery/school/college have experience of teaching other children/young people with similar special educational needs to your child/young person? I.e. have they supported a child/young people with vision impairment before?
- Is the nursery/school/college well-equipped? For example, books, computers, gym and sports equipment, play equipment etc., are these accessible to your child/young person? Could they be adapted for your child/young person, not all nurseries/school/colleges have had experience of a child/young person with vision impairment.
- Is the nursery/school/college well-staffed? How many pupils are there in each class? How many support staff will be in your child/young person's class? If your child/young person needs in-class support will they have to share support with other children/young people? Is the playground well supervised?

## **Support/Training:**

- What training have the teachers, who would teach your child/young person, had in Special Educational Need and in vision impairment in particular?
- Are nursery/school/college based staff willing to undertake training as and when necessary, so that they can fully understand your child/young person's needs?

## **Access to Learning and Education:**

- What teaching approaches does the nursery/school/college take? For example, are children/young people withdrawn for particular sessions with the Specialist Teacher or helped in the classroom by a Learning Support Assistant/Teaching Assistant?



- Could the nursery/school/college accommodate any specialist equipment, should this be necessary? This could be negotiated with the specialist visiting Teacher so that your child/young person's needs are met.
- Is there space for 1:1 work?
- Room for storage of additional equipment, should this be necessary for your child/young person, as they move through their educational journey? (Your child/young person's needs may change as they get older and moves through the key stages).
- How will the nursery/school/college involve parents in supporting your child/young person's learning? (from homework to review meetings)
- How do parents contact individual teachers and learning support staff if needed and will a named person be provided?

For further support contact:

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