

Buckinghamshire SEND Information, Advice and Support Service



FACT Bucks event
Saturday 30 March 2019

Choosing a school for any child - What to bear in mind

Your child's:

- Views/ aspirations
- Age
- Aptitude/ interests
- Special educational needs/disabilities

Your aspirations for your child



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Choosing a school for any child - What to bear in mind

The school:

- Distance
- Size
- Peer group – friends
- Environment and facilities
- Expertise and experience of staff
- Relationships/ communication
- Day school or residential
- School policies
- School SEN information report
- Ofsted rating
- Progress 8 rating for secondary school



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Choosing a school with an EHC plan - What to bear in mind

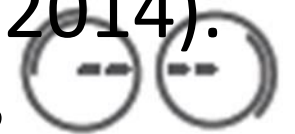
- Do you want mainstream or special education for your child?
- You have a strong right to a mainstream education for your child – but not to a particular mainstream school.



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Mainstream or special – what’s the difference in law?

- A special school is a school which is “*specialy organised to make special educational provision for pupils with SEN*” (section 337 of the Education Act 1996).
- A mainstream school is a school which is not a special school **and** is either a maintained school or an Academy (section 83 CAFA 2014). (Independent schools are not classed as mainstream schools.)



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Mainstream or special – what's the difference in practice?

- Inclusion
- Independence
- Curriculum
- Expertise in SEND
- Journey
- Size
- [Outcomes](#)



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What about Additionally Resourced Provision (ARPs)?

- These are specialist units within certain mainstream schools.
- They offer intensive and flexible therapy and specialist teaching on site
- ARP pupils are members of mainstream classes and are taught alongside their peers within the classroom by experienced teaching staff.
- At times, children may receive specialist, small group teaching as part of their ARP provision



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Resources for finding the right school for your child – comparing

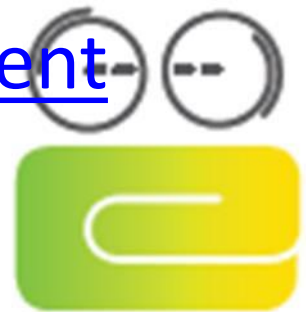
- [Buckinghamshire mainstream schools](#)
- [Buckinghamshire Special Schools and ARPs \(Additionally Resourced Provision\)](#)
- [Special schools map](#)
- [Ofsted reports](#)
- [Independent Schools Inspectorate \(ISI\) reports](#)



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Resources for finding the right school for your child – comparing


- [Find and compare schools](#)
- [Getting information about schools](#)
- [ISBI independent schools](#)
- [Find a further education course](#)
- [Natspec – specialist further education](#)
- [SEND IAS leaflet on educational placement](#)



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Buckinghamshire Local Offer



 **Buckinghamshire**
County Council

Home Family Information SEND (Local Offer) What's On Contact Us Register/Sign in My Favourites 0

Listen or translate

Buckinghamshire
Family Information Service

Local Offer for SEN & Disabil

Home > Family Information > Local Offer for SEN & Disability > Local Offer

Buckinghamshire's Local Offer for SEND

Here you can find information about what is available in Buckinghamshire for children and young people aged 0 to 25 with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND).



Education

Find support with schools, special schools and colleges



Activities and Short Breaks

Find local activities for children and young people with SEND



Childcare

Find SEND childcare groups, childminders and pre-schools in Buckinghamshire



Preparing for Adulthood (PfA)

Information and the support available for young people aged over 13 with SEND



Information and Advice

Support groups, advice services, money



Health

Find specialised health services



Social Care

Find out about social care services for



Tell us what you think

Share your feedback and help make the

Feedback

School SEN information report

- Schools must publish detailed information about their arrangements for identifying, assessing and making provision for pupils with SEN.
- E.g. [Buckinghamshire UTC](#)



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School policies

- SEND
- Behaviour/ Discipline/ Exclusion
- Inclusion/ diversity/ equality
- Accessibility
- Anti-bullying

E.g. [Chalfonts Community College](#) ;
[George Grenville Academy](#);
[Egerton Rothesay](#)



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Visiting the school

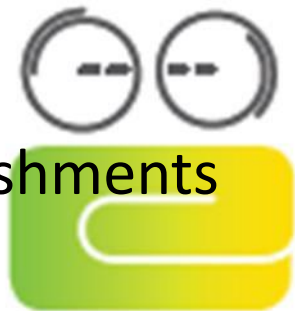
- Pick at least two schools to visit so you have something to compare with.
- Consider whether to take your child on the initial visit.
- Would it help to take a friend?
- Ideally visit during school day at a time when you can observe both lessons and break time.
- Prepare a [list of questions](#) in advance
 - See www.buckscc.gov.uk/media/2298/choosing_a_school.pdf
- Try to meet key staff, such as SENCO.
- SEND IAS volunteers may be available for visits.



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Choosing a school or college without an EHCP - What to bear in mind

- Admissions to maintained schools (excluding maintained special schools) are governed by Statutory Admissions Code.
- Academies, free schools and university technical colleges are required by their funding agreements to comply with the Code and the law on admissions, but the Secretary of State can vary this.
- The Codes do not apply to independent schools or to further education establishments except for 6th forms attached to maintained schools and academies.
- Independent schools and further education establishments have their own admissions policies.



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Choosing a school with an EHCP – What to bear in mind

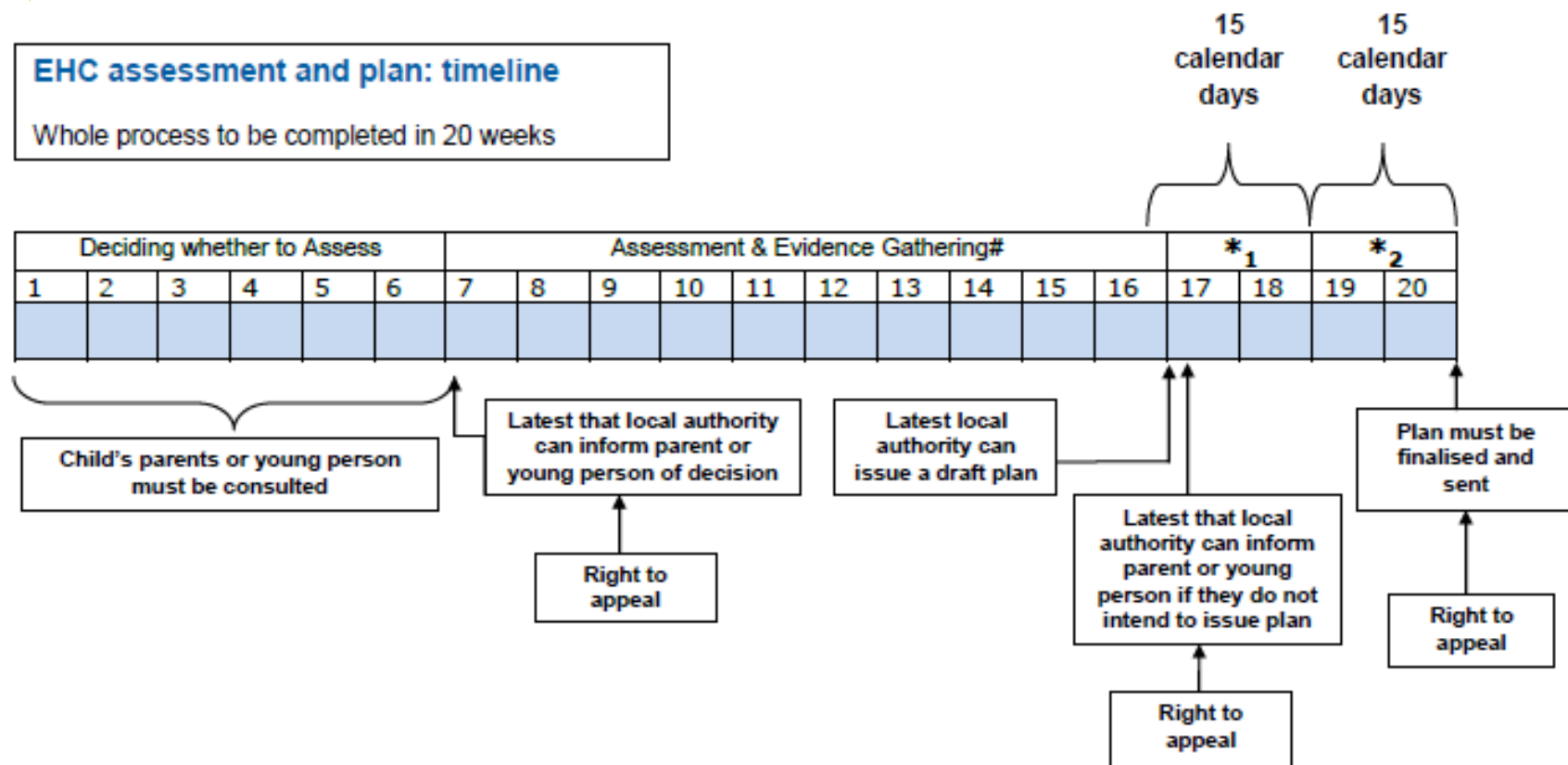
- **When** can you choose a school for your child with an EHC plan?
- When you receive the draft EHC plan or draft amended EHC plan – 15 days to respond.



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EHC assessment and plan: timeline

Whole process to be completed in 20 weeks



- # No new advice if existing assessment information:
- Is sufficient for EHC needs assessment
 - LA, advice giver and parent or young person agree it is sufficient
- *1: Parent or young person:
- Can comment
 - Can request a particular school or college to be named in plan
- *2: Consultation with school or college about being named in the plan

Choosing a school with an EHCP - What to bear in mind

- Depending on the institution you want, you (or your young person) will have a legal right either to:
 - **'request'** it
 - or
 - **'express a preference'** for it.



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Types of school you can 'request'

- a maintained school;
- a maintained nursery school;
- an Academy;
- an institution within the further education sector in England;
- a non-maintained special school;
- an independent special school approved by the Secretary of State under [section 41](#).



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Consulting with educational institution after a request

The local authority must consult—

- (a) the governing body, proprietor or principal of the school or other institution,
- (b) the governing body, proprietor or principal of any other school or other institution the authority is considering having named in the plan, and
- (c) if a school or other institution is within paragraph [\(a\)](#) or [\(b\)](#) and is maintained by another local authority, that authority.



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Naming a school after a 'request'

The local authority must secure agree to name the school or other institution requested by the parent/carer, unless:

- the school or other institution requested is **unsuitable** for the **age, ability, aptitude or special educational needs** of the child or young person concerned, **or**
- the attendance of the child or young person at the requested school or other institution would be **incompatible** with—
 - the **provision of efficient education** for **others**, **or**
 - the **efficient use of resources**.

If so, the local authority must secure that the plan—

- names a school or other institution which the **local authority thinks would be appropriate**, **or**
- specifies the **type of school** or other institution which the local authority thinks would be appropriate.



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Right to mainstream education

If a parent of a child, or young person, wants that child or young person to attend a mainstream setting, the LA can only refuse if a mainstream placement would be incompatible with the efficient education of others, **and** there are no reasonable steps the LA could take to avoid this (section 33 CAFA 2014).



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Types of schools you can 'express a preference for':

- Independent schools which are not non-maintained or section 41 schools
- The local authority is not under the same conditional duty to name the provider
- But:
- The local authority **must** have regard to the general principle that children should be educated in accordance with their parents' wishes, so long as this is compatible with the provision of efficient instruction and training and does not mean unreasonable public expenditure.



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Free home to school transport

Children under compulsory school age- no automatic entitlement

School age children - to nearest suitable school for those who are 'eligible'.

16 -19 – arrangements must be in place, don't have to be free.

19-25 – arrangements considered necessary by the LA must be free.



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Don't want a school at all? What then?

- [Elective Home Education](#)
- [Education for children out of school](#)



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Resources for finding the right school for your child – the law

- [School admissions for children with SEND](#)
- [IPSEA advice on choosing a school](#)



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Contacting Us

- Parents/carers and children and young people can contact us directly.
- Or can give permission to someone else to contact us on their behalf
- 01296 383754
- sendias@buckscc.gov.uk



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