

## **Questions that parents could ask when visiting a primary school for the first time**

- What is the usual entry system/procedure for pupils starting in reception? (Mornings/afternoons, shorter weeks?) If we felt that this would not work well for our child, how flexible would the school be? Equally if we expect our child to have the same integration procedure as the other children would the school be happy to support that?
- What experience do the school have in supporting children with additional needs?
- Do the school have any other pupils with an EHCP or who receive full time support?
- What kind of relationship do the school have with the child's preschool/playgroup?
- How flexible would the school be about their staff visiting the preschool to see how our child is supported and the preschool staff visiting the school?
- How many children will be in the Reception class?
- How many support staff are based in the Reception class ordinarily?
- Do any staff have experience of signing/Makaton? Is signing already used in the school environment?
- Do the school have existing staff that would be suitable for the role of support or would they be looking to recruit from outside?
- (Walk around the school). Look at how secure the site is for your child. Are the gates locked, are there fences, are there lots of steps?
- (Walk around the school). Look at how visual the information and resources are around the school. Talk about visual timetables and other types of visual support such as symbols.
- Would the school be interested in accessing information and/or training about Down Syndrome and the specific learning profile these children have in order to both support the staff and to ensure your child's success?
- How do the school feel about including a child with Down Syndrome and what does that mean to them? Explain what it means to you.

*These questions and information are designed to support your general enquiries and provide parents/families with a few ideas. It is also important that you look at your child's individual needs and requirements and add to these examples given and/or amend as necessary.*

*Feel free to give us a call if we can be of any further help.*

## **Ups and Downs Southwest**

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