

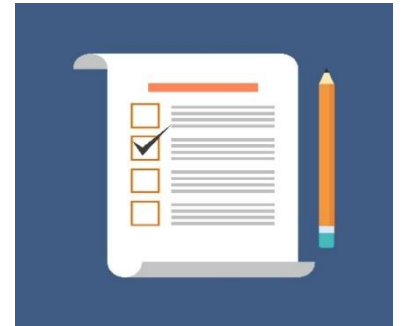
## **Checklist for visiting colleges - A guide for parents and carers with young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND)**

This guide aims to help you support your young person to decide on a college for their post 16 education. It can be used alongside the 'Checklist for young people with special educational needs and disabilities visiting colleges'.

### **Before the Visit**

#### **1. Research the College:**

- Research the college's SEND support services and policies, this should be available on their website.
- Look for local reviews or testimonials from other parents and carers.
- Check if the college has partnerships with local SEND organisations, clubs and community groups.



#### **2. Contact the College:**

- Schedule a visit and inform them of your young person's specific needs.
- Request a meeting with the SEND lead or support staff.
- Ask about any upcoming open days or SEND events.

#### **3. Prepare Questions:**

Below are some questions that you might want to ask, but also think about anything specific your family might need to know:

- What specific support services are available for SEND students?

- How are adjustments implemented in the classroom and during exams?
- What is the process for requesting adjustments?
- How does the college communicate with parents and carers?

## During the Visit

### 1. College Accessibility:

- Assess accessibility of buildings and common areas.
- Look for ramps, elevators, quiet spaces, accessible toilets.
- Check local transport accessibility.

### 2. Support Services:

- Meet with the SEND lead or support staff.
- Inquire about mentoring, counselling, mental health services.
- Ask about assistive technology.
- Discuss transition support.

### 3. In Class Support:

- Ask how learning needs are supported.
- Ask about available adjustments, including [Ordinarily Available Provision](#).
- Inquire about staff training on SEND.

### 4. Out of Class and Social Activities:

- Explore inclusive clubs and activities.
- Ask about SEND-specific groups.
- Ask about support for making friends or peer mentoring.

Visit the local offer to find more activities available in the area: [Community Directory - Local Offer](#)

## After the Visit

### 1. Evaluate the Visit:

- Reflect on how comfortable your young person felt.
- Consider accessibility and inclusiveness.
- What did your young person think of the college? Do they still have concerns? Are you able to follow up with the SEND lead if they still have questions?
- How does this college compare with others?
- Join local parent groups for more insight.

### 2. Decision Making:

- What decision has your young person made?
- Discuss any concerns with staff.
- Consider long-term support and opportunities.

## Further Information

### What help can the SEND Information, Advice and Support Service (SENDIASS) give?

If you have a question about special educational needs and/or disability, and are not sure who to ask, you can talk to SENDIASS about it. They offer impartial information, advice and support services for young people.

Contact: 0808 164 5504 or [information@hampshiresendiass.co.uk](mailto:information@hampshiresendiass.co.uk) or visit [Hampshire SENDIASS](#)

## Additional information on colleges:

[SEND Local Offer | Hampshire CTSH](#)

[Map of Providers and Useful Links](#)

The college website – this is a very useful source of information which would usually include a statement about ethos, values, the college’s admission policy, the college’s special educational needs policy, and links to Ofsted reports. Colleges may also include information about examination results and where young people go after they leave college.

The college prospectus – will contain a range of information about the college. You can request a copy from the college.

The college Ofsted report – this is a detailed reports from the Office for Standards in Education. They also produce summaries which give a useful overall picture of a college. You can access the latest Ofsted report from college’s websites or from the Ofsted website at [Ofsted - GOV.UK](#).

Government Education Statistics – these are published by the Department for Education (DfE) and are available at [Data collection and censuses for schools - GOV.UK](#)

