

Choosing Positive Futures

Frequently Asked Questions

- 1. My child is a summer born baby (born between 1 April and 31 August) and I do not feel that my child is ready to start school before they reach compulsory school age. Can my child be admitted to Reception a year later?**

There is flexibility for parents who do not feel their child is ready to start school before compulsory school age. You may defer the date your child is admitted to school until later in the school year following their fourth birthday, providing you do not defer beyond the point at which they reach compulsory school age, or beyond the start of the final term of that school year. Alternatively, your child may attend school part-time until they reach compulsory school age. Please discuss this with the allocated school.

Children born in the summer term (1 April to 31 August) are not required to start school until a full year after the point at which they could first have been admitted – the point at which other children in their age range are beginning Year 1. Should you wish your child to be admitted to Reception, rather than Year one, at this point, you may request that they are admitted out of their normal age group. In any circumstance where a parent requests their child is admitted out of their normal age group, the admission authority must make a decision on the basis of the circumstances of the case and in the best interests of the child concerned.

- 2. Can I select a school located outside of Haringey for my child?**

You can choose an out of borough mainstream maintained school. However we will consult in Haringey for places first. If your child has an EHC Plan you can ask us to consult schools using your child's EHC Plan so they know how they will need to meet your child's needs.

- 3. Can I select an independent school?**

If you are interested in an independent special school, as it is not under the local authority, you need to be aware that we will always try to place children using our local provision, which is high quality and able to meet a very wide range of children's needs. The details of the Haringey Special Schools are on the Local Offer Website. We can consult independent special schools, however we do not have a duty to name them unless we cannot find a special school place to meet your child's needs locally.

4. I have heard there is a new special school called The Grove. When is it opening?

This is the new special school for children with Autism and is opening in September 2018.

5. Can my child attend a special school without an EHC Plan?

We do sometimes offer special school places for children who have very complex needs on an assessment place. However this does not guarantee a long term place at the school. The place will depend how on your child's needs emerge during the time of their assessment at the school.

6. How do I select a school that I believe is most suited to my child's needs?

You can discuss your preferences for mainstream school or special school with the professionals involved with your child including Area Sencos and School Sencos.

If you are trying to choose between special school and mainstream it is important to think about how your child will feel at school, do they already have friends in the local area, can they join in games with some help for some of the time, even if it is not all of the time. Remember that a lot of children start school at different stages in their development, and all the schools are experienced at working with children with a range of needs. If you are interested in a particular school you should check the school's 'SEN offer' on their website, as this will tell you the school's experience and how they are able to meet the needs of children with special educational needs.

7. What happens if my child's EHC Plan is not complete before national offer day in April when all other families receive notification of their offer of a school place?

If your child is not issued with an EHC Plan before national offer day, a place at a mainstream school will be offered in accordance with the school's admissions criteria.

8. What therapy input will my child receive in mainstream or special school?

Both special and mainstream schools have access to the full range of therapies.

9. Will my child receive one to one support in mainstream or special?

Your child's needs will be supported by the school, and their level of support will be described in their Education Health and Care Plan. All the support your child gets will be to maximise their progress and help them to learn independently. This may be through some direct time with an adult, or it may be through teaching time, mentoring from older children, or group work with other children lead by an adult.

10. Will my child receive transport to and from the school?

This is not automatic. You can apply for transport if your child has complex needs and is going to be attending a special school that is further from your home than you can be expected to travel. We will consider every application in its own right.

11. Can I choose to use the money identified by the EHCP to fund my own therapist in school or to fund ABA in the school?

The money in the Education Health and Care Plan is usually used by the school to support your child's learning through teaching strategies implemented in school. If services are already available to meet your child's needs, we will use those to make sure your child has the right level of therapy and support. If you want to use the money for something else, this needs to be agreed with your child's school. It may not be practical for the school to give the money to you, as they may need it to help support your child.

12. Can alternative therapies such as cranial osteopathy, music therapy, horse riding be funded through the EHCP?

These cannot be funded by education as they are not considered to be educational therapies.

13. Can a school refuse admission if my child is not toilet trained?

No, the schools will work with you on your child's toileting.

14. When I go around looking at schools, what can I do if I am unhappy with the way in which the school has communicated with me? For instance, the receptionist who is abrupt and tells me that this school is not for my child.

You should let the head teacher know if there is anyone in the school who does not behave with you in a welcoming way.

15. If my child starts at a mainstream school, can he/she then move to a special school in subsequent years and vice versa?

Yes, we will always consult new schools if this is what your child needs.

16. If I move out of borough permanently, or am given temporary accommodation out of borough, can my child still have a place in a Haringey mainstream or special school?

You can stay in the Haringey school, but you may want to discuss with your new borough about schools that are nearer to you.