

Questions to ask Secondary Schools:

- Is there a Learning Mentor or counsellor in school? It would help my child to have a key person to turn to if she has a problem and ideally she would meet them before she starts in September
- Is there a homework club? How often does it take place? Can she do her homework here on a daily basis?
- If there is no provision, are there any members of support staff or older children who could run this? Might a sixth former do this as part of their community service for D of E or earn some pocket money?
- Is there a buddy system so she has someone to show her around and look out for her initially?
- What is the system to disseminate information to different teachers about a particular pupil? Eg do they use communication passports?
- Who will be parent/carers point of contact? How can we communicate?
- How frequently are parent teacher consultations held? Can we meet more regularly if necessary?
- Is there is system of study support for different academic subjects? Who leads on this?
- Is there provision or a separate building for Year 7 so they are not swamped in the main bulk of the secondary school?
- Is there a breakout zone where pupils can go to calm down or just take themselves away from busy school if they feel things are getting on top of them?
- Do the children each have a locker to keep their books in or do they keep everything at home and make sure that they bring the correct resources to school each day?
- If a child is apt to get distracted easily in class, is there a supportive mechanism to keep them focussed on the learning?
- When is the transition day when children come in the summer term to see the school? Is there a forum for parents to meet on this day too? Are there parent representatives for each class? Do parents have a class list before the beginning of term so that they can organise some playdates before they start?
- What percentage of the Y7 intake come from different primary schools?