

WIA&SS

Wandsworth
Information,
Advice &
Support Service



The local SENDIASS, working in partnership with children and young people with SEND and their parents

Dear Parent,

This school list names different types of special schools (including 6th forms within a school).

Our schools' lists are designed to give you an idea of what is available in Wandsworth and other boroughs.

However, it does not include the names of every school, and we cannot guarantee that all the schools listed are suitable for your child/young person.

Please note: School details can change quickly and although we try to update our school lists every year, some details may change before then. We recommend that you look at the school's website for further information and visiting a school is usually the best way to find out if it is the right one for your child/ young person.

You can also use the Ofsted website www.ofsted.gov.uk to get further information about the school.

We recommend that you ask to speak to/make an appointment with the Headteacher when contacting a school for the first time.

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The Wandsworth Information and Advice Support Service (WIASS) is an impartial service; therefore, we do not make recommendations about individual schools and do not endorse any of the schools on this list.

However, we will explain your rights and the LA's duties when deciding on which school/s:

If you have received your child / young person's draft EHC plan, you should contact your child's/young person's EHC Coordinator to make a request for a particular school to your local authority (LA).

The Law:

You have the right to request the following types of school/s, to be named in your child's/young person's (16-25) EHC Plan:

- A maintained school or nursery (mainstream or special school). These are schools that are funded by a Local Authority (LA)
- An Academy or free school (mainstream or special) These are schools that are funded by the Secretary of State (Government).
- Further education or sixth form college
- A non-maintained special school. These are charitable foundations and "not for profit" schools.

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- A Section 41 school. These are independent schools or specialist colleges that have been approved by the Secretary of State (Government)

The LA **must** consult the above school/s if you ask them to.

The LA **must** name one of the above school/s unless it can prove one of the following:

- It would be unsuitable for the age, ability, aptitude or SEN of your child's or young person's, or
- The attendance of your child or young person there would be incompatible with the efficient:
 - a) Education of others, or b) Use of resources

Independent Schools (that are not non-maintained or Section 41 schools):

While there is no automatic right to request an independent school that is not a non-maintained* (does not operate for profit) or Section 41 approved school, you can ask the LA to consider this option.

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It is important to have a confirmed offer of a place from the independent school before making a request for the LA to consult with this type of school. It is important to note that if an independent school does not offer your child / young person a place, the LA can not force admissions or name the setting in the EHC Plan.

The LA will consider whether the school can meet all of your child's special educational needs and provide a suitable education. They will also consider the cost of the placement and if there are other schools that can meet all of your child's needs.

*Non-maintained independent schools must meet certain standards and are inspected by Ofsted or the Independent Schools Inspectorate (ISI)

Questions to consider on a school visit:

How does the SENCO communicate information about individual pupils to teachers? This is especially important at secondary school where a pupil might be taught by 13-14 different teachers in a week.

What training do teachers and support staff receive to support children with SEND?

How does the school ensure children with SEND can participate in extra-curricular activities and school trips?

How does the school involve parents in school life?

How does the school communicate with you regarding your child's progress and any concerns?

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Does the school have experience of children with the same/similar needs as your child and how did they work with them?

Are there quiet spaces or sensory areas available for your child if they need them?

What induction processes are in place for new students, particularly those with SEND?

How are difficulties with behaviour managed within the school environment?

How does the school support emotional regulation and mental health?

What is the school's approach to bullying?

What is the staff-to-student ratio, particularly in SEN classrooms / settings?

How does the school work with external specialist professionals to help your child/young person?

Other things to think about when visiting a school.

Do you feel welcome?

Do the children look comfortable/happy?

Do the classrooms look like places where children can learn?

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Does the school celebrate different cultures/different points of views?

Do the staff seem interested in you and your child?

For more information and questions, for when you are deciding on a school, please read our,

- [Looking for a primary school if your child has an EHC plan leaflet](#)
- [Looking for a secondary school if your child has an EHC plan leaflet](#)

If you have any questions about the lists or you would like more advice or information about deciding on school/s, please contact the WIASS office:

- **Helpline number: 020 8871 8065** (24-hour answer machine)
- **Email:** wiass@wandsworth.gov.uk



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Secondary Schools for Pupils with Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) and Behavioural Difficulties

Hammersmith and Fulham				
Westside School (Academy alternative provision)	Westside School specializes in providing education to students who have faced challenges in mainstream educational settings. This includes students who may have social, emotional, and mental health (SEMH) needs, or those who have been excluded from other schools. Boys and Girls Ages 11 - 16	8-30, Galena Road London W6 0LT	Tel: 020 7504 0512 E-mail: office@westsideschool.org.uk	Website: www.westsideschool.org.uk

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<p>Ormiston Queensmill School (Academy special school)</p>	<p>Special provision for pupils with autism, communication and speech and language difficulties. The school supports students with emotional and behavioural difficulties, offering therapeutic and counselling services to address their needs.</p> <p>Boys and Girls Ages 3 – 19</p>	<p>1 Askham Road Shepherd's Bush London W12 0NW</p>	<p>Tel: 0208 740 8112</p>	<p>Website: www.oqma.co.uk</p>
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Surrey				
Wandle Valley Academy (Special Academy)	Setting for pupils with social, emotional and mental health difficulties. Boys and Girls Ages 5 - 16	Welbeck Road Carshalton Surrey SM5 1LW	Tel: 020 8648 1365 Email: office@wandlevalleyacademy.org.uk	Website: www.wandlevalleyacademy.org.uk
Wandsworth				
Nightingale (Academy Special School)	Nightingale School is a Special Academy working to support pupils with SEMH difficulties. Boys Age 5 – 16 Years	Beechcroft Road London SW17 7DF	Tel: 020 8874 9096 Email: info@nightingaleca.org	Website: www.nightingaleca.org



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<p>Burntwood SEMH Base at Burntwood School</p> <p>(Academy School)</p>	<p>The Burntwood SEMH Base is a dedicated space within the school that focuses on supporting students with SEMH challenges. The base provides personalized learning plans, therapeutic interventions, and behaviour support, aiming to integrate students back into the mainstream classroom environment when possible.</p> <p>Girls only Ages 11 - 16</p>	<p>Burntwood Lane London SW17 0AQ</p>	<p>Tel: 020 8946 6201</p> <p>Email: info@burntwoodschool.com</p>	<p>Website: www.burntwoodschool.com</p>
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Merton				
Melrose (Maintained Special School)	A Special School for pupils with social, emotional and behavioural difficulties. Girls and Boys Ages 11 - 16 Years	Church Road Mitcham Surrey CR4 3BE	Tel: 020 8646 2620 Email: melroseschool@melbury.merton.sch.uk	Website: www.melrose.merton.sch.uk
Lambeth				
Elm Court School (Maintained)	A Special School for pupils with emotional and behavioural difficulties. Girls and Boys Ages 11 - 18 Years	Elm Park London SW2 2EF	Tel: 020 8674 3412 Email: admin@elmcourt.lambeth.sch.uk	Website: www.elmcourt.lambeth.sch.uk



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Independent Schools

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Maypole (Independent Special School)	A school for pupils with social, emotional and mental health (SEMH) difficulties, challenging behaviour. Most pupils will also have some combination of additional complex needs, such as Anxiety, ASD, ADHD, FASD, PDA, OCD, ODD, Toxic Childhood Stress / Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), Developmental Trauma or Delay. Boys and Girls Ages 5 – 19	Leigham Court, Streatham, SW16 2QA	Tel: 0203 887 0395	Website: www.maypoleschool.co.uk

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Hammersmith and Fulham				
Insights School (Special Independent School)	Provides individualized support for students with SEMH and other special educational needs. Offers tailored interventions, therapeutic services, and a supportive learning environment. Boys and Girls Ages 5 – 21	(Upper School) 1st Floor 1 Craven Road London W5 2UA	Tel: 020 8840 9099 Email: info@insightsesc.co.uk	Website: www.insightsesc.co.uk



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Southwark				
Octavia House Walworth (Independent) Section 41*	A Day Special School for pupils with social, emotional and behavioural difficulties (including ADHD and ODD). Girls and boys Ages 11 - 16 Years	Key Stage 3 South Lambeth Road, London SW8 2TJ Key Stage 4 Kennington Road, London SE11 6AU	Tel: 020 3651 4396 Email: hello@ohs.uk	Website: www.ohs.uk
Surrey				
Merrywood (Independent Special School)	Offers an individualised, inclusive and nurturing setting where they have the opportunity to explore deep-rooted issues and traumas through therapy. Girls and boys Ages 5 – 16 years	The Old Pheasantry, Merrywood Grove Tadworth Surrey KT20 7HF	Tel: 01737 336352 Email: admissions@merrywood.org.uk	Website: www.merrywood.org.uk



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Croydon				
Arise Academy (Independent Special School)	Arise Academy is an independent specialist day school providing high-quality education for boys and girls. Based in West Croydon, the school meets the diverse needs of pupils aged 11-19 with Special Education Needs and Disabilities (SEND). Boys and Girls Ages 11 – 19 years	Cornerstones 14 Willis Road Croydon CR0 2XX	Tel: 01543 570 304 Email: enquiries@horizoncare.co.uk	Website: www.horizoncare.co.uk

The following school search websites can also help you:

www.specialneedsuk.org

www.schoolsearch.co.uk (for independent schools)

www.isc.co.uk (for independent schools)

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