

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

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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.**

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 cannot force admissions or name the setting in the EHC Plan.

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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?**

**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?**

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**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?**

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

**Do the staff seem interested in you and your child?**

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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](mailto:wiass@wandsworth.gov.uk)



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### Residential Primary and Secondary Schools for Pupils with a Hearing Impairment

Wandsworth				
<b>Oak Lodge</b>  (Maintained)	A Special School (Day and Residential) for pupils with hearing, speech, language and communication needs.  Girls and Boys Ages 10 - 19 Years	101 Nightingale Lane London SW12 8NA	Tel: 020 8673 3453  Email: <a href="mailto:info@oaklodge.wandsworth.sch.uk">info@oaklodge.wandsworth.sch.uk</a>	Website: <a href="http://www.oaklodge.wandsworth.sch.uk">www.oaklodge.wandsworth.sch.uk</a>
Berkshire				
<b>Mary Hare School</b>  (Independent)	A Special School (Day and Weekly Boarding) for Pupils with hearing impairment.  Girls and Boys Ages 5 - 18 Years	Arlington Manor Snelsmere Common Newbury Berkshire RG14 3BQ	Primary: Tel: 01635 573 800 Email: <a href="mailto:primary@maryhare.org.uk">primary@maryhare.org.uk</a>  Secondary: Tel: 01635 244200 Email: <a href="mailto:enquiries@maryhare.org.uk">enquiries@maryhare.org.uk</a>	Website: <a href="http://www.maryhare.org.uk">www.maryhare.org.uk</a>

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East Sussex				
<b>Hamilton Lodge School and College</b>	A Special School (Day and Residential) for Pupils with hearing impairment.	Walpole Road Brighton East Sussex BN2 0LS	Tel: 01273 682362  Email: <a href="mailto:admin@hamiltonlsc.co.uk">admin@hamiltonlsc.co.uk</a>	Website: <a href="http://www.hamiltonls.co.uk">www.hamiltonls.co.uk</a>
<b>(Non-maintained)</b>	Girls and Boys Ages 5 - 19 Years			

Wandsworth Hearing Support Service can advise on specialist schools for children and young people with hearing impairments and on specialist provision for hearing impaired pupils in mainstream schools in Wandsworth. Contact details for the Wandsworth Hearing Support Service are:

Telephone: 020 8394 5944

Website: [www.wandsworthhearingsupportservice.org.uk](http://www.wandsworthhearingsupportservice.org.uk)

All boroughs have their own HI Services. You can find contact details for these on the relevant Local Authority website.

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The following school search websites can also help you:

[www.specialneedsuk.org](http://www.specialneedsuk.org)

[www.schoolsearch.co.uk](http://www.schoolsearch.co.uk) (for independent schools)

[www.isc.co.uk](http://www.isc.co.uk) (for independent schools)