

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?

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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?

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 specialists 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?

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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?

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 Special Schools for Pupils with Moderate Learning Difficulties (MLD):

Wandsworth				
Garratt Park (Maintained Special School)	Special school for pupils who have moderate learning difficulties, many with additional needs such as dyslexia, ASD, Speech, Language and Communication and ADHD. Boys and Girls Ages 11 – 19	Waldron Road Earlsfield Wandsworth London SW18 3TB	Tel: 020 8946 5769 Email: info@garrattpark.wandsworth.sch.uk	Website: www.garrattpark.wandsworth.sch.uk

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Croydon				
Bensham Manor School (Maintained Special School)	Mixed special school for pupils with with complex needs including SLCN and Autism. Boys and Girls Ages 11 - 19	Ecclesbourne Road Thornton Heath Surrey CR7 7BN	Tel: 02086840116 Email: office@benshammanor.com	Website: www.benshammanor.co.uk
Hammersmith and Fulham				
Ormiston Queensmill School (Maintained Special School)	The school for pupils with moderate to complex learning difficulties and autism spectrum conditions. Boys and Girls Ages 3 - 19 years	1 Askham Rd Shepherd's Bush London W12 0NW	Tel: 0208 740 8112	Website: www.oqma.co.uk

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Lambeth				
Turney (Foundation Special School)	Turney School is specifically for pupils aged from 5-19 years of age with Autistic Spectrum Condition and associated learning difficulties. Boys and Girls Ages 5 -19	Turney Road London SE21 8LX	Tel: 020 8670 7220	Website: www.lansdowneturneyfederation.co.uk
Merton				
Cricket Green (Maintained Special School)	Pupils at the school experience many challenges to learning; including autism, ADHD and learning difficulties. Boys and Girls Ages 4 - 19	Lower Green West Mitcham CR4 3AF	Tel: 020 8640 1177 Email: office@cricketgreen.merton.sch.uk	Website: www.cricketgreen.merton.sch.uk

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Richmond				
Clarendon (Special Academy)	Clarendon is a day special academy for pupils with moderate learning difficulties and additional complex needs including Autism. Boys and Girls Ages 4 - 16	Egerton Road Twickenham TW2 7SL	Tel: 020 3146 1441 Email: info@clarendon.richmond.sch.uk	Website: www.clarendon.richmond.sch.uk
Surrey				
St. Piers (Non-Maintained Special School)	A nurturing mixed school for children with moderate learning needs. Boys and Girls Ages 4 – 19	St Piers School and College St Piers Lane Lingfield Surrey RH7 6PW	Tel: 01342 831348 Email: education@youngpilepsy.org.uk	Website: www.stpiers.org.uk

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Kingston				
St. Philips (Maintained Special School)	Special mixed school for pupils with moderate learning needs. Boys and Girls Ages 9 - 19	St Philip's School, Harrow Close Chessington Surrey KT9 2HR	Tel: 020 8397 2672 Email: office@stphilips-chessington.org	Website: www.stphilips-chessington.org

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)