

Parent Partnership
Town Hall
St Ives Road
Maidenhead
Berkshire
SL6 1RF

Tel: 01628 683182

Email: parent.partnership@rbwm.gov.uk



Information Sheet 16

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO EXPRESS A PREFERENCE FOR A SCHOOL FOR A CHILD WITH A STATEMENT OF SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS (SEN)?

If your child has a Statement of SEN, the law says that you have a right to 'express a preference' for the school you wish your son or daughter to attend. This means that you can tell the Local Authority (LA) which of the maintained schools in your area you would like them to go to. A maintained school is one that belongs to or is managed by the LA, ie your local primary, secondary or special school but not an independent or private school. The LA will then take your views into account when decisions are being made about which school can best meet your son or daughter's needs.

If you are asked by the LA to express a preference for a school it is important that you do so either in writing or by telephoning your son or daughter's case officer so that the details of your preferred school can be recorded in the relevant paperwork. That paperwork may be considered when the decision is made regarding placement.

At your son or daughter's last Annual Review¹, there will have been a discussion about which school they should go to next. However, unless you had put the name of your preferred school in writing when you completed the Parental Report for Annual Review there may be no written record of the school for the LA to refer to.

If you do not know which school you prefer and are happy to wait for the outcome of the process, you should let the LA know that too, again by contacting your child's case officer at the local education office:

SEN Department
The Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead
The Town Hall
St Ives Road
Maidenhead
Berks
SL6 1RF

Tel: 01628 796780

¹ See Information Sheet on Annual reviews