

Suggested things to find out about during school/college visits

How much experience of Aspergers/ASD do the staff have (in particular SENCos & support staff)?

Is it possible to have extra visits to school/college prior to starting (for example during the last term of school)?

Could these be at different times such as when it's quiet & at busier times?

How will we be able to contact school/college? Will it be possible to phone and/or email?

Would there be a specific point of contact for us and our child?

Ask about how a specific issue would be dealt with, for example:

"What if my son refuses to do PE, how will you resolve this?"

It works very well asking the same question at different schools, as you are able to compare the responses. Being told that "they would sit him down and reason with him" would be a definite indicator that their understanding of AS was not that good! Whereas being told they have different strategies according to the individual child, would be encouraging!

What would be the available support? Would this be in class only, away from class or a mixture? Would this be flexible depending upon where support was required and not tied to timetabling?

Are there any additional things available which may help them such as loan of laptops?

Extra time after group sessions for checking understanding?

Is there a homework club?

Is there somewhere safe they can go as a 'bolt hole' (for example the Learning Support department or the Library)?

What happens at lunchtime? Is there somewhere quiet that they can go?

Regarding college visits, it can be useful to produce a checklist of questions. Print off one for each college visited and use it to make notes on. *A customisable Word copy of this is available from the support pages of our website at www.shantsnas.org.uk.*