

## Questions to ask on primary school visits



### General

1. What are the school values and ethos?
2. What are the school goals? Strategy?
3. Are you staying as a school or changing to an academy?
4. If you could change one thing about the school, what would it be?
5. Do you have partnerships with other schools? Links to secondary schools – in music, sports, facilities etc?
6. What's the structure of the school day?
7. What are the class sizes and formats? Are years combined in classes together?
8. Where do most of the children come from (town, villages)? Which schools do they tend to go on to?
9. To teachers or head – would you send your children here?
10. To children – what the best and worst bits of school and lessons? What subject do you like the best?

### School policies

1. How do you deal with bullying?
2. Discipline?
3. Do you have a mentoring/buddy system for the older children looking after the younger ones?
4. If a religious school, frequency and type of church or assembly?
5. Holiday policies – outside term time?

### Settling in and welfare?

1. How do you settle in reception children? Do they start full time, part time, staggered start with the rest of the school?
2. What's the policy when children are upset, tired, ill or have an accident?
3. Do children have access to drinks throughout the day?
4. Toilets – are they easily accessible for youngest children? Do they have to wait for a break or can they go when they need to?

## Teaching

1. How long have the staff been at the school? What's the turnover?
2. What additional breadth is taught outside the standard curriculum?
3. Supply teachers – regular or consistent?
4. How much teaching do the teachers do? Are classes taught by different teachers?
5. What's the proportion of teaching indoors vs outdoors?
6. If there are mixed year groups in a class, how do teachers cater for all standards?
7. What role do teaching assistants play?
8. Do you recognise gifted children, and what additional support are they given to progress?



## Secondary school preparation

1. Do you provide support for 11+ / entrance exams? External tutors having links with the school?

## Parent links

1. What are the expectations on parents? Homework, involvement, fundraising etc
2. What methods of communication does the school use?
3. What opportunities are there for parents to feedback or air concerns? How frequently?

## Facilities and extra-curricular

1. How are lunches catered for? In house, bought in
2. How are lunches ordered – weekly, termly, on the day?
3. How do you ensure youngest children cope and get their food in time? Is there enough food for older children?
4. What type of sports activities are taught? How often do the children do physical exercise?
5. What school clubs are there?
6. Are there any independently run clubs?
7. Wraparound care – Is there any? Where and when?
8. What music activities are there within the normal school day? Do any peripatetic teachers come in to teach?
9. IT facilities – how is it taught and what technology is there for children?