

Secondary transfer videoconference: Sendiass and Our Voice with SEN Services Oct 2020

Q: Although we have an EHCP, we are awaiting a full cognitive assessment by an EP. How important could this be with regard secondary school?

A: If child has a new EP assessment, this information will be added to the EHCP at the next Annual Review of the EHCP.

If a child's needs have changed, or the provision to meet these needs has to be changed, the parent can speak to the Senco.

Find out when is the next review of the EHCP, and will this take place before the child starts secondary school?

Does the parent think there needs to be an emergency review?

Discuss with the school about how any new recommendations will be put in place, and what adjustments the school can put in place straight away. The important thing is that the new information is shared with the school and the LA as soon as it becomes available. Parent can also speak to their SEN adviser at the LA.

Q: Date for submission of preference forms:

A: It was stated on letters to parents that the forms must be returned by 15th October; however, the date for return of forms is 23rd October 2020 - parents were reassured that this date is the actual closing date.

Q: Out of borough schools:

A: If the *nearest* mainstream school to the family home is in a different borough (if family lives very close to the border), this school will be consulted if parents ask for it to be named.

'Contact' is an organisation with advice on applying for a school place:

<https://contact.org.uk/advice-and-support/education-learning/admissions-and-school-choice/applying-for-a-school-place/>

Email: info@contact.org.uk

Q: EP Report needed so that EHCP is updated to reflect needs

A: If parents think a new EP report is necessary, they should discuss this with the school Senco. Parents can write a letter to the school and SEN services, to state that they are requesting a new assessment of needs (with their views/reasons/evidence), well in advance of the annual review meeting.

Q: Can schools refuse to admit a child with an EHCP?

A: Parents have a right to request mainstream education for their child.

Under the Equality Act schools are required to make 'reasonable adjustments' so that all children can access their facilities and services.

If you are not offered a place, you could ask for detailed reasons, as this could help you decide whether you want to appeal

Ipsea information:

<https://www.ipsea.org.uk/choosing-a-schoolcollege-with-an-ehc-plan>

Additional specific enquiries

Some parents had *specific enquiries* and concerns about their children's EHCPs - these enquiries are being dealt with separately by SEN Services.

Q What is the process of appeal and can you get outside help?

If your child does not have an EHCP:

You will be sent information on waiting lists and the appeals procedures if your child has not been allocated your preferred school.

Parents can appeal for any or all of the schools listed *higher than* the allocated school.

Appealing for more than one school will not impact on the outcome.

Parents can accept a school place and still submit an appeal for school(s) they would like their child to attend.

There is also information in the *ENFIELD guide to secondary schools*.

If your child has an EHCP:

You will have named your preferred school, as the school you believe will meet the needs of your child. If you are not offered a place at your preferred school, you should contact your SEN adviser with your concerns and to discuss next steps.

There is a process of appeal and you will receive this information and the steps you need to take, from SEN services.

Sendiass gives information to parents, and can signpost you to organisations with information on the process.

Q: How do I ensure that my son gets his first choice school?

No EHCP:

Include any relevant information with your application.

Explain the reasons why you want this school or why it is important that your child is allocated a place there; for example, a medical reason, and include evidence.

Schools use their published admissions criteria when deciding how to allocate places.

Many schools receive more applications than there are places available and will use their oversubscription criteria.

You will be offered a place at the highest preference possible.

'If your child is not offered a place at any of your preferred schools, you will be offered a place at the nearest school that still has a vacancy.' (Admissions website).

You should include a local school on your list.

If your child is not admitted to preferred school, you will be go on the waiting list and be given information on your right of appeal.

Child has EHCP

You will have asked for your preferred school to be named on the EHCP, because you think it is the most appropriate school to meet your child's needs. You can include all your reasons for asking for this school to be named, and why it will be able to support your child to achieve the outcomes on his EHCP, and achieve his potential. You could also give reasons why a different school would be unable to meet your child's needs.

If your preferred school is not named, you can speak to SEN and you will also be given information on your right to appeal.

Q: The SENCO at the first choice school advised that there will be an interview; how should we prepare?

There will not be an interview as part of the application process for any school. When your child is offered a place, secondary schools may arrange an interview with parent and child. Some schools call it a welcome/personal interview, and it is an opportunity to get to know the staff and to ask questions.

If your child has additional needs or an EHCP, the primary school may arrange a meeting with secondary school staff and this is an opportunity to discuss any concerns, ask questions and find out more information.

You can prepare by making a list of key questions about how your child will be supported and discuss any concerns you have about your child's transition to a new school.

The above enquiry was also discussed at the session today

School has said to parent that 'there will be an interview' as part of the application process for the school. Advised parent to contact SEN Services and call the school for further clarification.

Parent can call Sendiass: 0208 373 6273/07903 762 008

Q: Why do we need to wait till February to find out which school my son will be going to?

Once the LA certain receives the preferences from parents, they will send all applications to schools. The schools will go through all the applications and they have a certain length of time to do this. The responses are then returned to SEN and once all the information is processed, they get back to parents. The EHCP will be finalised in mid-February, naming the secondary school your child be expected to attend in September.

1st March - date all other children find out the name of their allocated school.

Q: The Local authority seems to be fixated on transport, is this proving to be an issue or is it only for outrageous requests?

Parents can request transport to school if the child or young person is of compulsory school age, and it is not reasonable for them to walk to school because of their special educational needs or mobility difficulties.

There is a Travel Assistance policy on the Enfield Local Offer;

<https://new.enfield.gov.uk/services/children-and-education/local-offer/send-education-and-travel-local-offer/#6>

[Government guidance on transport:](#)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/home-to-school-travel-and-transport-guidance>

Q: Our school only informed us of this service via email, after the transfer deadline - is this common?

This information session was organised as some parents were uncertain about naming a school, in the absence of the usual Open Evenings. Some parents contacted us, as there was some confusion regarding the deadline for sending in the forms with preferences for schools. We have not held this type of information session for some time, and can only apologise that we were unable to organise it earlier. We will consider all feedback received and will endeavour to hold these sessions earlier in the autumn term next year.

Q: Parent has not received the SEN form, to name school preference. What can he do? Child has EHCP. Parent also wanted to know how to apply for a school for his daughter.

Contact SEN advisor – email and call.

Parent can call/email the helpline at SEN:

020 8379 5667/sen@enfield.gov.uk

Advised parent to speak to the Senco at child's primary school/SEN Advisor at LA, and he can call Sendiass for more information.

Q: Will LA give extra time to parents and allow them to change their preferences based on selective school examinations?

Parent will need to contact the school's Local Authority Admissions Service for clarification.

