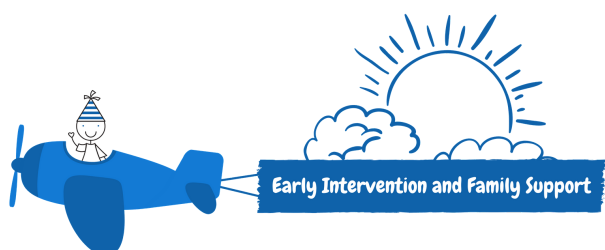




# How to support a child at secondary school

Useful things to know, to ask and to do



In partnership with



# Things to ask yourself



## Are they happy to go to school?

If not, ask them why.

Talk with your child to find out what's working for them and what they are finding difficult.

Try and understand what's happening so you can identify solutions and actions together.



## Do I understand their school report?

If not, ask someone at school, such as their tutor or learning mentor, to talk you through it.

The report has valuable information about your child and understanding it will help you feel more involved in their education.



## Are they having difficulties with their homework?

If so, ask their school if they run a homework club. They may be more willing to complete the work in the school setting.

Does your child know how to access their homework via the school portal?



## Are they finding a subject difficult that they used to enjoy?

If so, ask to meet with the subject teacher and find out what has changed. Talk with your child to find out what's happening.



### Do you have good communication with the school?

If not, consider what you can do to improve it.

Go to parent's evenings. These are useful times to find out more about how things are going at school.

See if there is a parent portal on the school website.



### Are their choices causing them to be dealt with through the school's behaviour policy?

If so, ask for a meeting with their teacher, Head of Year, learning mentor or the school Senco (Special Educational Needs Coordinator).

Try to find out what's causing this. Together you can then agree how you can all work together to support them.



### Is there a member of staff who just 'gets' them?

If so, what are they doing that other teachers aren't?

Could they share this information and best practice with other members of staff?

Read the school's special educational needs and disability (SEND) information report – this will be on their website. You can ask the school office if you can't find it or would prefer a paper copy.

# What schools can do

Secondary schools are able to use their own money and resources (called SEN Support) to provide:

## Assessments

A standardised assessment can be used to find out their strengths or difficulties.

A member of the Special Educational Needs (SEN) or inclusion team can independently observe them to see:

- What causes or triggers any changes in their behaviour and the consequences of these
- Their interaction with their peers
- Their level and consistency of attention and focus

## Learning

A specific time and space to catch up on learning or receive additional learning input.

A member of school staff can help with support preparing for class or learning, scribing and note-taking.

Consideration should be given to whether they are eligible for adjustments in any exams and assessments due to their SEN.

## Emotional and behavioural support

Carrying out an assessment of their possible vulnerabilities, such as the 5-point check.

The school can offer a school counsellor they can talk to.

Running a self-esteem or mindfulness group for children with similar needs.

## Social skills

Some children find it easier to leave class 5 minutes early to avoid corridor crowds.

A toilet pass can be used for use during lessons or some children find it useful to have access to a different toilet.

A safe space with teaching staff can be used during breaks or at lunchtime.

Lunchtime clubs, such as Lego, friendship, gardening, choir and more can be useful.

## Referrals for an assessment

Schools can also make referrals for an assessment for:

- Educational psychology
- Speech and language therapy
- Clinical psychology
- Behavioural support
- Social communication support
- Additional funding and support
- Inclusion support and advice

# Get in touch with us



Call us on 020 8461 7630

Monday to Friday 9.30am - 1pm and 2pm - 4pm



Email us on [iass@bromley.gov.uk](mailto:iass@bromley.gov.uk)

or [choiceservice@bromley.gov.uk](mailto:choiceservice@bromley.gov.uk) for our Choice Service



Alternatively, you can text us on 07834 106 347

Did you know?

Our Children and Young People Support Officer can:

- meet with children and young people directly
- talk to them in private, if needed
- talk young people through their options
- help young people to have their say and be included in discussions

Young people can text us on 07970 595 739

# Call us on 020 8461 7630

or visit [www.bromleyiass.org.uk](http://www.bromleyiass.org.uk)

