

### Questions parents could ask a new school

#### **Staff Qualifications**

- 1) What are the minimum qualifications for teachers at the school?
- 2) Do you have enough staff who are trained in First Aid available on the premises at all times?

#### **Curriculum and Class Size**

- 1) What curriculum do you offer? And at what stages do you offer it?
- 2) What is the average class size? And are there any teaching assistants in the lower grades?
- 3) How are children supported to develop their language and communication skills in both languages from an early stage? What does the school do to help with this?
- 4) How are children assessed as they go through school?
- 5) How does the school integrate technology into learning?
- 6) What is the school's policy on homework?
- 7) Does the school offer field trips or any other external learning opportunities? How does it support the curriculum?

# **Communication and Parental Involvement**

- 1) What is the school policy on communication with parents? What modes of communication are used?
- 2) How does the school handle feedback, concerns and complaints from parents?
- 3) What are the opportunities for parental involvement?

## **Behaviour Management**

- 1) What's the school policy on behaviour management? Is that available in writing?
- 2) How does the school manage or deal with issues around bullying?

## Health, Safety and Security

- 1) How do you ensure children's safety on the school premises?
- 2) What is your policy on sickness? Is there a school nurse on location?
- 3) Does your school have a healthy eating policy?

#### **Special Needs and Inclusion**

- 1) What's the school policy on inclusion and what provision is there for children who might be underachieving?
- 2) What provision do you have for children who are gifted/ talented? Or those who are high attainers generally? How is learning differentiated for them to keep them challenged and motivated?

3) How does the school promote diversity and cultural awareness?

# **Physical Activity and Extra-Curricular Activities**

- 1) What is the extra-curricular offer at the school? Opportunities for student leadership (school council/ student ambassadors)?
- 2) How does the school promote art/ music and drama? Are these subjects part of the curriculum throughout?
- 3) How often do children have PE? And how long is their play time during the day?

## **Trainings and Working with External Professionals**

- 1) Do teachers receive Continuous Professional Development (CPD) on a regular basis?
- 2) How open are you to working with external professionals for the benefits of a child?
- 3) What is the school's policy on working with external agencies (psychologists, speech therapists, OTs)?

### **Transition Support**

1) What arrangements do you have for transitions between year groups or Key Stages? and transfers to other schools (if needed)?

### **Student Support Services**

- 1) What type of support services are available for students (counselling, academic advising, and career guidance, application for college/ university)?
- 2) How does the school support students' mental and emotional well-being?

Compiled by:

**Nadia Sultan and Rutuja Tipnis** 

**Educational Psychologist and Psychologist in Training** 

IEC Contact number: 99202186