

Oxfordshire SEND



**Starting school when
your child has special
educational needs
and disabilities**



**OXFORDSHIRE
COUNTY COUNCIL**

Moving from preschool to primary school is a big step for any child – and for you as a parent or carer. When your child has additional needs, finding the right support and preparing for the transition to school can feel especially important.

That's where the Local Offer comes in.

The Local Offer can be a helpful starting point for information about services, support groups and inclusive activities across Oxfordshire.

Visit www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/localoffer to explore practical ideas and local support.

Start exploring early

Beginning the conversation early can make a real difference. It helps everyone involved understand your child's needs and plan the right support from the start.

You, your child's preschool, their new school and special educational needs and disability coordinators (SENDCOs) should work together to make the move to primary school as smooth and positive as possible.

But you might still be wondering:

- ▶ What support should already be in place for my child?
- ▶ What should I look out for when visiting schools?
- ▶ What questions should I ask?
- ▶ When are the key dates and deadlines?
- ▶ How will the school support my child's individual needs?
- ▶ How will my child's support be planned and reviewed (for example through an individual education plan or similar support plan)?
- ▶ What must a school legally provide for children with SEND?

The **Local Offer** can guide you through – from preparing for transition meetings to helping you and child’s new school understand their strengths and needs.

Explore more at www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/localoffer



Feel prepared and confident

Starting school isn’t just a transition for your child – it’s a big change for the whole family. The Local Offer helps you understand what support is available, so you can feel more in control and confident in the decisions you make.

You’ll find clear, practical information on:

- ▶ Funding and support
- ▶ SEND Support or other types of school support
- ▶ Specialist services to support your child
- ▶ Tips for helping your child become familiar with their new school environment and routines, recognising that some children may need more time and support during transitions
- ▶ Advice and services to support emotional wellbeing for your child and for you as a parent or carer, including peer support and parent groups
- ▶ Information about specialist services that may support children with communication, sensory or physical needs, including how these services can be accessed
- ▶ Information on school transport, childcare, and wraparound support, if your family needs it

Explore SEND services, support groups and more at:
www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/localoffer

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