

Choosing a Secondary School

Please choose the questions that are most significant to you and your child and remember some of these questions need not be asked and may not all be answered, but are good indicators of what to look for, for a 'learning' safe school for your child.

1. Who is the person responsible for learning support within the school?
 - May I put them in contact with my child's _____?
 - Is this person the first person of contact for myself, if I should have any issues?
 - May we freely email each other?
2. What social/emotional support is offered at your school for my child should he/she be experiencing anxiety, stress related to his/her learning needs?
3. What literacy / numeracy support programs do you offer as extra support?
 - *Are these programs evidence-based/research validated?*
4. How does your school establish that a student has need for extra support in the area of literacy or numeracy?
5. What accommodations would be available for my child for his/her specific learning needs?
 - *Are all **English novels** available as **audio books**?*
 - *Use of phone in school for setting routines/class timetable reminders and schedules.*
 - *Assistive technology (suggestions)*
 - *Laptops with specific add-ons to assist with reading, spelling or writing*
 - *Homework sent in PDF format for ease of reading, use of technology to unlock written content*
 - *Added support from staff/personnel (welfare teacher etc) if difficulties should arise.*
 - *Direct access to teacher email etc should assistance be needed?*
 - *Extra time to complete homework and tasks set in school time.*
 - *Assessment of his/her work in specific target area only - e.g., not assess spelling if task is for a written content component.*

 - *Extra time for tests/exams.*

- *Scribes for tests/exams for Dysgraphia*
 - *Reduced workload*
 - *Looking into future, completion of a longer term for year 11/12 studies?*
 - *Please NO reading aloud in class (orally).*
 - *Access to a specific area so he/she can utilise speech to text accommodations for written tasks?*
6. Do you set up ILP's (Individual Learning Plans) for students in the learning challenge category- dyslexia, dyscalculia etc?
 - *Who is involved in writing these ILP's?*
 - *Are students encouraged to contribute to the writing of their own ILP's?*
 - *Do they include SMART learning goals?*
 - *How often are Student Support Group meetings held?*
 - *Who attends these groups?*
 7. How would the teachers show that my child is able to demonstrate his/her knowledge and understanding with written tasks?
 8. How is the teaching of English and Maths structured to support students different learning needs?
 9. Is an exemption from LOTE a possibility for my child who has dyslexia?
 10. How would the teacher ensure that my child is able to access all learning tasks (especially those involving a lot of reading)?
 11. How would existing information that I have for my child (assessments and recommendations) in relation to his/her learning needs be given to other teachers?
 - *Is there any way I would know that they have received this information and understand what my child's needs would be?*
 12. Has your staff received any Professional Development for any of the learning challenges my child presents with?
 13. Would our private tutor/speech therapist/ be able to work with my child at school, when it is a convenient time to do specialist work? E.g., LOTE time

14. Has your school had experience providing special provision for Year 11/12 examinations and studies for children with Dyslexia etc?
15. Does your school screen for students with additional learning challenges, how would you identify this area of need within the classroom?

Mustard Seed Learning Email: info@msonline.com.au