

## Choosing primary education

### Choices

[State-maintained schools](#)

[Independent schools](#)

[Home schooling](#)

### Do staff need to know about stammering in my chosen school?

It is always ideal when your child stammers if staff are knowledgeable about stammering. However, this will not be the case in most schools.

### Is my choice of school limited when my child stammers?

## NO

**You do not need to restrict your choice of school in any way when your child stammers, as all teachers (and home educators) can learn the very simple strategies to support your child. Speech and language therapists often provide information or training for staff and specific strategies of support for class teachers are available at [BSA:Education](#).**

[Personal preferences](#)

Parents may wish to consider options in primary schools that reflect their views on ethics, faith and same sex parenting to name but a few of the possible personal concerns that they may have. Consequently, they may also wish to choose a primary school area where appropriate secondary schools are located as well. Some parents may wish to explore home schooling.

[State-maintained schools](#) In England and Wales, 90 per cent of children are educated in state-maintained schools, the majority referred to as mainstream or 'ordinary' schools.

[Independent schools](#) have a range of provision and are found in every locality. Fees will vary considerably.

[Home schooling](#) - Home education is when a child is educated at home rather than at school. It's perfectly legal in England to educate your child at home and you don't need to be a qualified teacher to do so.

### General factors to take into account when considering your options in primary education

#### Curriculum

The National Curriculum is taught in all state-maintained schools although in the academies there is room for manoeuvre with this. Some schools may receive some additional resources to deliver a specialist subject such as Science to a high level.

Independent schools set their own curriculum, frequently in many areas modelling the state curriculum as there is much agreement on a child's core needs.

However, what is often unique to each school is the manner in which the children are taught, and your views on this as it will be relevant to the needs of your child who stammers. You will know whether your child responds best to classroom-based or open-plan learning for example where a number of staff work with more than one class of children in an open-plan setting.

Home educators are not obliged to follow the National Curriculum but must of course be able to supervise their child's learning throughout the day.

## **Ethos and values**

Some state and independent schools will have a religious ethos that supports your beliefs, although a number of them now are able to accept children from different faiths or no faith at all, as long as parents are supportive of the school's basic values. Other schools will have a strong values base which is inclusive and secular.

State primaries are usually mixed but currently there is one offering single sex education.

Single sex provision is available in the independent sector in both faith and secular schools. There is controversy about the merits of educating primary age children separately in this way.

## **Extended school care**

You may prefer a school with 'wrap around care' available to you if you are working and some schools in both the state and private sectors do offer this in breakfast clubs and early evening supervision, but it is not always available in every area. Most schools however, will offer some form of out of school activity: Sports, Musical opportunities for example and this may influence you. Some schools in both the state-maintained and independent sectors also offer a boarding facility.

## **Presence of siblings, children known to your child**

**We know that children who stammer often need to feel very supported as they cope with transition and change and knowing other children is very helpful for them, particularly when they first start a new school. Some parents of children who stammer have said that this is the most important factor for them, as it helped their child to cope with the changes that some children who stammer find difficult and worrying.**

## **Size and atmosphere**

**Some parents have told the BSA that they were more comfortable with a choice of a smaller primary school as they believed that their child was more likely to be intimidated by a larger building with many children. Other BSA parents have found that a well run primary school which is bigger can be just as supportive as a smaller one, you need to judge the 'atmosphere' when you go round, before making a decision.**

## **Travel and costs**

How easy is it to get to the school and how much does this matter to you? Do you want your child eventually be able to walk there, perhaps with other children, or in a school walking bus or do you plan to drive your child to fit in with your commitments to your other children's childcare, or your work?

**Remember that when your child stammers he may be more sensitive to the demands of a hectic schedule and this might be a factor that influences you when choosing a school.**

The cost of bus fares or school fees if applicable need to be factored in.