

CHOOSING A SECONDARY SCHOOL:



A WORKSHOP FOR PARENTS OF Y5 CHILDREN WITH SEND

Haringey Education Inclusion Team

June 2023

Think about what's important to and for you from a secondary school

Consider both your and your child's views

Make sure you think about the whole secondary experience.. friendships, getting to school etc

Talk to the professionals and other people who know your child well Children can be different in school and different people notice different things

Remember you are choosing a school for the next 5-7 years for the teenager they will become

Weigh it up and make a list of MUST haves and WOULD LIKE to haves



FIND OUT MORE
ABOUT
DIFFERENT
SCHOOLS

Location of Haringey secondary schools



- | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Alexandra Park | 8. Highgate Wood |
| 2. Fortismere | 9. Hornsey School for Girls |
| 3. Duke's Aldridge Academy | 10. Park View |
| 4. Gladesmore Community | 11. St Thomas More Catholic |
| 5. Greig City Academy | 12. Woodside High |
| 6. Harris Academy Tottenham | |
| 7. Heartlands High | |

- Secondary (Community)
- Secondary (Academy)
- Secondary (Foundation)

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There are 12 mainstream secondary and 4 special schools in Haringey

Do your research...

- Read the Step by Step guide
- Visit the school website
- Read the OFSTED report
<https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/>
- Talk to other parents
- Talk to other professionals
- Contact the SENCOs of the schools on your shortlist and **arrange an individual appointment**

There are both Special and Mainstream schools.

Find out more about both to decide which is right for your child?

Places in special schools are only offered to children without EHCPs in exceptional circumstances

What are your aspirations for your child – academic qualifications or independence skills?

Does the current school meet your child's learning needs in line with their peers?

Does the school environment support your child's independence and well-being?

Do they have a social group and friendships?

What do Mainstream Schools Offer?



What do Special Schools Offer



Different family journeys



Haringey SENDIASS at Markfield

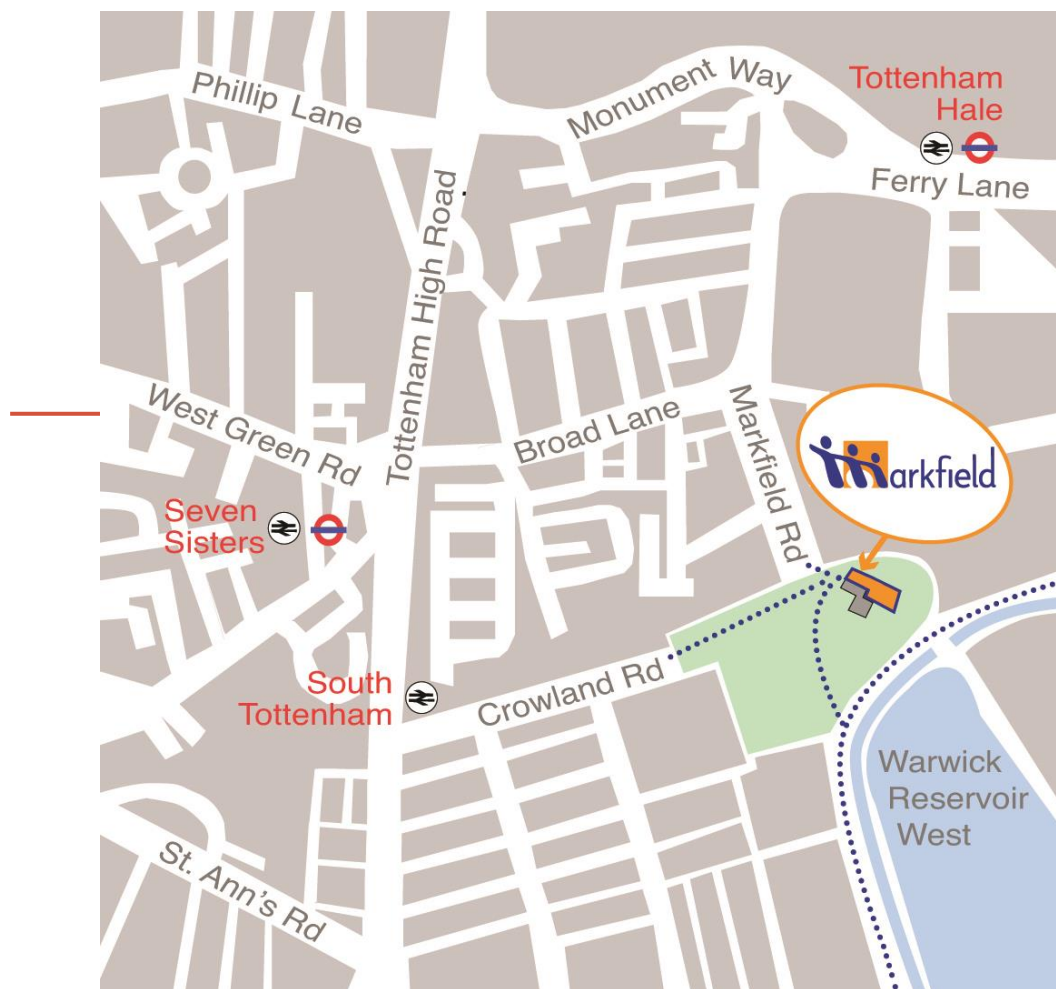


Markfield



An inclusive community hub in Haringey where people can play, socialise and get information and support

Markfield community centre is in Markfield Park, South Tottenham, N15 4RB



Markfield is an independent charity set up 40 years ago by parents of disabled children

Our aims are:

To enable disabled people to be themselves and live life to the full

To support the whole family and break down isolation

To promote community participation and service user involvement

www.markfield.org.uk



Markfield's services

Family drop-ins

- Saturday adventure play
- Monthly Family Club
- Under 5s stay and play - weekly
- Parent & carer support groups

Advice & information

- **Special Educational Needs & Disability Information Advice & Support Service (SENDIASS)**
- Disability benefits advice

Training

- Free training workshops and courses for parents/carers

Volunteering

- Family Befriending scheme

Adults social clubs

For adults with learning disabilities

- Daytime clubs
- Friday evening social club

Children & youth sessions

- After-school clubs & holiday playschemes
- IYA – Youth Participation Group

Autism Support Project

To support parents and carers of children and young people who are on the waiting list for an autism diagnosis or have been recently diagnosed.

The project includes:

- a monthly Autism club for young people,
- a monthly online parents group,
- a monthly face to face parents group,
- one to one advice session, training and social events.



Adventure Playground at Markfield



What is SENDIASS – overview

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Information Advice and Support Service

The Government's **SEND Code of Practice** requires every Local Authority to fund a free **information advice and support service** for parents/carers and children and young people with SEND, covering: special educational needs, disability, health and social care

The remit of SENDIASS

To support parents/carers, and young people with special educational needs up to age 25 with:

- Initial concerns or identification of potential SEN or disabilities, through to ongoing support and provision, which may include an Education Health and Care (EHC) plan
- Understanding local policy and practice around SEND
- Navigating the Local Authority's **SEND Local Offer**
- Guidance about the law on SEN and disability, health and social care, including Personal Budgets
- Gathering, understanding and interpreting information and applying it to their own situation
- Information on the local authority's processes for resolving disagreements, its complaints procedures and means of redress

SENDIASS must:

- Be **impartial** and provided at arm's length from the local authority
- Be **free**, accurate, **confidential**, and accessible
- Work in partnership with children, young people, parents, local authorities, CCGs and other relevant partners
- Help to promote independence and self-advocacy for children, young people and parents
- Provide advice through individual casework and work with parent carer support groups, local SEN youth forums, disability groups, or training events
- Work with the local Parent Carer Forum and other representative user groups to ensure that the views and experiences of children, young people and parents inform policy and practice

Source: *Government's SEND Code of Practice*

Haringey SEND Information Advice & Support Service



Markfield is commissioned by Haringey Council to provide the SENDIASS service for this borough

- Markfield SENDIASS provides parents and young people with SEND who live in Haringey with free impartial information advice and support,
- Markfield SENDIASS Advisers are all trained in SEN law (IPSEA training)
- SENDIASS is a self-referral service, which can be accessed in a variety of ways.....

Markfield SENDIASS services.....

Telephone Helpline

- For parents & carers and young people with SEND

Advice surgeries *face-to-face, or online via zoom*

- Impartial advice on SEND procedures and law
- To support parents with: understanding systems for SEN Support in schools, EHC needs assessments and Plans, preparing for meetings, applying for school places, exclusions, appeals and complaints, disability discrimination.
- Signpost and information about other SEND-related services in Haringey

Drop-in advice sessions: Thursdays during term time from 10am to 12 at Markfield

Outreach

- **Advice drop-ins** - in schools, Children Centres and community venues
- **Coffee mornings** - with parents / carers in schools

.....Markfield SENDIAS services:

Training sessions for parents (via zoom)

- About SEND law and procedures, including: EHCP needs assessments & Plans, Personal Budgets, Annual Reviews, Exclusion procedures

Family Club – *just drop in, no need to book*

- A friendly drop-in where parents can meet other SEND families, on the **second Saturday of the month in term-times**, 11.30am to 2.30pm at Markfield community centre, in Markfield Park, N15 4RB

Independent Young Advisors

- Participation group of young people with SEND

How parents and young people can contact **SENDIASS**

Telephone Helpline 020 8802 2611

Mondays to Fridays 9.30am to 5pm

Plus extended hours in school term-times:

Wednesdays until 7pm

Thursdays until 6pm

*If you cannot get through, please leave a short message with your
number and a SENDIASS worker will call you back*

Email: sendiass@markfield.org.uk

Some other sources of information and support for parents

National:

- IPSEA <https://www.ipsea.org.uk/>
- National Autistic Society (NAS) <https://www.autism.org.uk/>
- Special Needs Jungle www.specialneedsjungle.com
- SOS SEN <https://sossen.org.uk/>
- Contact <https://contact.org.uk/>

Local:

- Haringey Council SEND Local Offer website www.haringey.gov.uk/children-and-families/local-offer
- Haringey Parent Carer Forum Email: sendpcf@bridgerenewaltrust.org.uk
- Markfield parents support drop-in: Fridays in term-time 10am to 12pm at Markfield Community Centre, Markfield Park, N15 4RB

Decide on your preference of school

Remember: The most important factor is how you and your child feel about the school. Can you picture your child there?

It may not be the school your friend recommended or chose, but is it right for your child and your family?

We often make these decisions on a gut feeling, and as long as you have collected good evidence along the way, hopefully it will be the right decision. Good luck!

It is important to select more than one school as your top preference is not guaranteed. Schools prioritise children with EHCPs but need to consider everyone who applies to be sure they can meet all the children's needs.

UNDERSTAND THE APPLICATION PROCESS

If your child is at SEN Support..

Apply through school admissions

<http://www.haringey.gov.uk/children-and-families/schools-and-education/school-admissions>

The process will be the same as for all other children. You will find out the school you have been offered on 1st March 2024

If your child has an EHCP...

If your child has an EHCP, you will have had or be having an annual review in Summer Term Year 5 or early Year 6. This will be used to update your child's EHCP so that the new school has a good understanding of them. You will get a copy of this before it is sent to any new schools

It is important to make sure their new EHCP reflects the person they are now so that the new school can make a really good decision about whether they can meet their needs

By the middle of September, you will be sent by post a **blue** form which you will need to fill in and email or post back to Haringey SEND department stating up to two school preferences. Your SENDCo will be able to help you with this

If you do not hear from us, don't worry you can call us on 020 8489 1913, Email: SENDPhaseTransfers@haringey.gov.uk or talk to your sendco

For children with EHCPs, as soon as you return the blue form we will send your paperwork to the secondary schools you have expressed a preference for.

If you have not expressed a preference for your local school, we also send your child's paperwork to them.

You will hear from us which school your child has been allocated by February 15th 2024

If your child is given a place at a special school, they may be eligible for transport support, but you will need to apply for this separately

Transport support comes in a number of forms:

- Bus or coach transport with escort
- Travel buddying and travel assistance
- Travel training

You can find out more here:

<https://www.haringey.gov.uk/children-and-families/local-offer/5-15-year-olds/school-transport>

What happens when your child's school has been agreed...

The primary and secondary school will work together to support your child to settle in well to their new school.

This could include:

- A transition review with you, the primary school and your child's new secondary school to agree their support plan.
An induction programme consisting of a number of additional visits and taster day or summer school

The Inclusion team will deliver a workshop with top tips for you next year

Any Questions



If you want to talk more about the process for your child, you can:

- Contact your child's caseworker if they have an EHCP (ask your SENDCo who they are)
- Phone the secondary transfer hotline on week beginning 9th October (details sent out in September)