

## Things to consider before applying to change your child's school

Moving to a new school is an important step for all children. Some of the things which you must think about if you are considering a change of school for your child are:

### Curriculum

This is especially important for secondary aged children, and particularly for those in years 9, 10 or 11. A new school may not necessarily be able to exactly match your child's existing curriculum commitments.

### Achievement

On average statistics show that school moves lower examination results. Overall, in-year movers tend to have lower prior attainment, and achieve less well as a result of moving. Compared to their peers, the attainment of pupils who make in-year moves is markedly lower, particularly at Key Stage 4. Furthermore, attainment is lower still among pupils who make multiple in-year moves. Only 27 percent of pupils who move schools three times or more during their secondary school career achieve five A\* to C grade GCSEs, compared to the national average of 60 percent.

### Behaviour

It can be helpful for a child who is presenting challenging behaviour to move to a new school. However, this is normally only where the behaviour is linked to the existing school. If strategies to help a child have already been put in place these can be disrupted by a school move. This can lead to further difficulties.

It is usually better for the child if the family work with the existing school to help to address and resolve any difficulties.

If your child does move schools to address challenging behaviour, they may stay on the roll of their old school for an interim period. If the change of schools is not successful they would go back to their old school.

### Peer group / friends

If there are difficulties consider if these would be resolved by a school move?

There could be similar issues, even in a new school. It is often better to work with the existing school to address matters. Moving a child away from an established peer group may adversely affect achievement.

### Timing

A change of schools during the school year can disrupt a child's education if they are already in the middle of a specific piece of coursework.

### Transport

Schools set their own start and finish times. You need to consider the implication of these on your child and in relation to your personal day to day schedule.