**Local Offer Review**

**Frequently Asked Questions requested by Children and Young People**

**Education:**

* **How can I be more independent in school?**  
  *As you progress through school, you will gain more independence. Some children and young people have more independence than others, and that is usually to do with their individual needs, but it can be to do with how responsible and mature they are in school. If you would like more independence or responsibility, you could ask a trusted teacher if they have any special jobs for you to do or anything you can help with.*
* **What happens if my college placement breaks down?***There are so many reasons that a college (or school) placement could break down, and what happens next will be unique to you. Remember that your teachers will notice if you are falling behind, so if you are experiencing difficulties, there should already be a plan in place. It might be that you have a little bit of time off, move to a college (or school) where there is more support, or transfer to a different course. If there is no plan in place, speak to a tutor or teacher that you trust to ask for their help.*
* **Can I see my timetable in an app?**  
  *Every school and college will have a different method of sharing timetables, so you can ask specific questions like this when you start. If your school doesn’t have this in place and you would like them to, you can suggest it to them!*

*If you lose your timetable, you can ask at the school office or college reception for help so that they can let your teachers know where you are and what has happened.*

* **Will I need to wear a uniform? > What if it’s too hot to wear it? > What if it feels uncomfortable?**  
  *Most primary schools and all secondary schools in Bury require their students to wear a uniform, but they might be able to make adjustments for you if it is uncomfortable. You should tell your teacher or head of year if this is the case, and they should be able to help. If you need specialist clothes, or shoes, you will be allowed to wear them – just make sure your parent or carer has told your teacher that you need them.*
* **What will my curriculum be?**  
  *Although there is a National Curriculum in England, every school organises it differently, and you can ask about this during open evenings or read about it in the school prospectus. You can also read about the curriculum on the school website. It might help you decide which secondary school you want to go to, so it’s a great question to ask when you’re looking at different schools.* *You can find out more about the National Curriculum here*: [National curriculum - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)](https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/national-curriculum)
* **Who will my teacher be next year? Will I get to know them before I start?***Every school is different, but you could ask your current teacher or head of year if you are at a secondary school and they might know the answer. If you are about to start secondary school, you might be invited in to meet your form tutor before you start in September.*
* **Will I have my picture in the classroom? (To identify where to sit or hang my coat)**  
  *Most schools don’t have photos of the students in the classroom, but some primary schools and specialist schools do. If you think this would help you, you can ask your teacher if they can include a photo of you in their seating plan.*
* **Can I choose where I study? Can I see a list of schools to choose from?**  
  *Yes, you and your parents or carers can choose your school or college placement. When you start year 6, you might hear about open evenings taking place at secondary schools. You can visit them with an adult and decide which one you like best. This will be the same when you’re in year 11 looking at colleges. If you have an Education Health and Care Plan and need to attend a specialist provision, you may not be able to choose which school you go to, but you can be sure that you will be receiving the right support at the right time.*
* **What time do I start and finish school?**  
  *This varies from school to school, but usually schools start at around 9am and finish at around 3pm. If you are going to college this might be different, but you can ask about your timetable when you enrol.*
* **Will my college timetable be different to my school timetable?**  
  *It might be – it depends which college you go to. Some colleges have all their students attending from 9am-3pm every day, like at school, but other colleges will only ask you to come in when you have classes. For example some students are only in college twice a week. You can find out more about how this works when you visit colleges at open evenings.*
* **What can I do if I’m finding attending school difficult?**  
  *If you’re finding school difficult, or you’re worried about your attendance, you should tell your teacher and ask to speak with the pastoral team at school. You can explain to them what’s going on and why you’re struggling, and they can help you get back on track.*
* **What else is on offer if mainstream school doesn't work for me?**  
  *There are lots of schools aside from mainstream schools. There are special schools to support children and young people with special education needs, for example social, emotional, and mental health needs or autism. You can look online to find out a bit more about what these different types of schools offer.*
* **Who can I turn to for advice in school?**  
  *Lots of people in school can help you, but you probably have a trusted adult in mind that you feel comfortable speaking to. This might be your class teacher, your English teacher, your form tutor, your librarian, or anyone else. If you don’t have a trusted adult in school, you can ask your teacher if there is a pastoral team or school counsellor that you could speak to. If you’re worried about anything at all in school or college, find your trusted adult, share your concerns and ask for their help.*
* **What can I do if staff don’t seem to understand me?**  
  *It can be really frustrating to feel misunderstood. Try speaking to a different staff member, an adult at home, or any other trusted adult in your life. If you are still feeling misunderstood, you might decide to speak to your headteacher or your doctor to explain that you are not getting the support that you need.*
* **What level of help should schools be offering to pupils with SEND?**

*Children and young people with special educational needs or disabilities (SEND) should be offered enough support at school to enable them to access their education. The guidance for schools about how to do this can be found in section 6 of the Special Educational Needs Code of Practice (2015). You can find the full document here:* [SEND\_Code\_of\_Practice\_January\_2015.pdf (publishing.service.gov.uk)](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5a7dcb85ed915d2ac884d995/SEND_Code_of_Practice_January_2015.pdf) *or an easy-read version is available here*: [Agenda Campaign and Policy Departmental Meeting (mencap.org.uk)](https://www.mencap.org.uk/sites/default/files/2016-08/FINAL%20DESIGNED%20Easy%20read%20SENDreforms%20parents%20v11.pdf).

*The support offered by schools should match your need, for example, if you have difficulty remembering things, you could be provided with an additional notebook where your teachers can write notes for you. Or if you have difficulty seeing the whiteboard, your teacher might print off the notes that are needed for you before your lesson. It is sometimes helpful to have some extra lessons to provide more time for you to learn skills that you find particularly difficult, for example, in maths or reading. These lessons will be planned during the school day.*

*You can also find out more about school support for children and young people with special educational needs in Bury’s Graduated Approach Toolkit:* [Bury SEND Graduated Approach Toolkit | The Bury Directory](https://theburydirectory.co.uk/bury-send-graduated-approach)