

What should parents weigh up when making a final decision about their child's schooling?

Make sure it's the right school for your child, not for you. Just because it's the school you went to, the in-demand exclusive school, or the school all your child's friends are going to, it doesn't make it the right one for them

Questions to Ask...

- What are your policies on homework, discipline and assessment?
- How do you ensure children are safe in the playground and toilets?
- Do you have an anti-bullying strategy and a health and welfare program?
- Do you specialise in certain areas - sport, art, drama, music, languages?
 - How large are your classes?
 - Do you offer before and after-school care?
- Do you cater for children with special learning or health needs?
- Do you respect and support children's cultural and ethnic backgrounds?
- Do you have intervention and extension programs in literacy and numeracy?
 - How do you ensure prep children make friends?
- Do you cater for low-income families (reduced levies, low-cost excursions)?
 - Do you encourage parental involvement?
- What's the school lunch like? And is there a packed-lunch policy?
 - How long have the staff been working here?
- How do you settle children if they get lost or seem unhappy?