

Choosing the Right School for Your Twice-Exceptional (2e) Child

Questions to Consider

Selecting the best school for your 2e child requires thoughtful evaluation to ensure their unique needs are met. This guide provides key questions to help you assess school fit. Consider gathering information through school visits, open days, information sessions, school websites, reviews, and discussions with current parents. A well-rounded perspective will give you confidence in your decision.

1. Demonstrates Curiosity and Care

A school environment that fosters curiosity and care is essential for 2e learners to feel safe, valued, and supported.

- Do all students feel safe to participate in the classroom in a way that is comfortable for them?
- Do students demonstrate care and respect for one another?
- Do teachers and administrators view students as whole individuals?
- Do students feel confident expressing their individuality?
- How is social-emotional learning integrated throughout the day?
- Do teachers and administrators show a willingness to learn, grow, and adapt to student needs?

2. Embraces Flexible and Creative Options

2e students often thrive in environments that allow for choice, creativity, and flexibility in learning and assessment.

- Do students have choices in how they learn and demonstrate their understanding?
- Do teachers encourage creative problem-solving and unique perspectives?
- Are students invited to share their viewpoints and ideas in class discussions?
- Does the classroom setup inspire creativity (e.g., flexible seating, collaborative workspaces, access to creative materials)?
- Are there dedicated creative spaces, such as maker spaces, art areas, or innovation labs? How often can students use them?

3. Accentuates and Nurtures Strengths, Interests, and Talents

A strength-based approach ensures that 2e students are challenged in areas of talent while receiving support where needed.

- Are students given pre-assessments to determine their starting point and ensure appropriate levels of challenge?
- Do students have regular opportunities to explore and develop their strengths and interests?
- How robust are the school's enrichment and elective programs?
- Are interventions, extension and support integrated into the school day?

4. Reframes Challenging or Confusing Behaviours

Understanding and accommodating the needs of 2e learners can reduce behavioural challenges and foster a positive school experience.

- Are students able to use fidgets or alternative seating without disruption?
- Are students provided with frequent movement breaks?
- Are there designated spaces in the classroom for quiet reflection, sensory regulation, or movement?
- How do teachers respond to unwanted behaviour? Do they use adaptive solutions and collaborative problem-solving with students?

Final Thoughts

By identifying the most critical elements for your child's success, you can find the best fit. Involving your child in the decision-making process helps build self-advocacy skills and ensures their voice is heard.

Educational needs may change over time, and flexibility is key. The goal is to find an environment where your child feels safe, challenged, and excited to learn every day.

For families considering schools within the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle, we are committed to supporting parents in finding the right fit for their 2e child.

We hope each 2e learner finds an educational setting where they can thrive!

National Association for Gifted Children. (2023). Parenting for high potential. *Vol. 12(4)*. Adapted from <https://www.nagc.org>