

Questions to ask

OUR KIDS GO TO SCHOOL

1. What is the school's philosophy, vision? Does the school have a code of conduct?
2. What kind of leadership and governance does the school have?
Is it governed by a board or an owner-operator? Is it non-profit or for-profit?
3. What does tuition include? Are other items extra—uniforms, books, technology, extracurricular activities?
4. What curriculum does the school use? Does it follow, meet or exceed the provincial education guidelines? What happens if your child switches to the public system down the road?
5. What is the student-to-teacher ratio? Maximum class size?
6. What are the teachers' qualifications? What kind of professional development are they offered?
7. Where do the school's graduates go? In the case of a high school, what percentage of students go on to university? Do they get accepted to their first choice?
8. Is there an entrance test? What type? How much emphasis is placed on the results?
9. How does technology fit into the curriculum?
10. Ask about their approach. How is this sensibility reflected in the school program and setting?
How does this mesh with your values?
11. What is the school's approach to discipline?
12. Does the school provide daycare or have extended hours?
13. Is there an endowment fund? To what extent does the school support families in need?
14. How willing is the school to involve parents? Is there a parent council? How much parental involvement is expected?
15. What type of student is the school looking for?
16. How does the school measure individual achievement and progress?
17. How does the school respond to a child who is not meeting academic expectations or who has gaps in knowledge?
18. What is the school's homework policy? Is there homework help?

Notes
