

# Q & A's to ask School

A visit is crucial – it will provide families with a sense of how a school feels and how their children will be supported to settle initially and to thrive longer term. Encourage the family to ask questions about the support their children will receive and how the school operates. These could include:

- What are the school's vision and values (this can tell you a lot about the feel or aspiration of a school)?
- Who will be their point of communication and how will communication work?
- How will children be supported in an unfamiliar environment or when they encounter challenging situations – what pastoral support is in place?
- What will they be taught and how will they be taught it (class sizes, lesson length, additional support available)?
- If the children do not speak English or they have limited English, how will the children be supported with language development?
- What extracurricular activities (sports, music, drama for example) does the school offer – how does this support existing interests their children might have?

It may be useful to spend time with them thinking about questions in advance. School visits can be overwhelming, especially with everything else going on during the resettlement process. Time is precious in the first few days of resettling and families can arrive exhausted and traumatised. But in most cases, the sooner decisions can be made about schools and places allocated, the quicker children can settle and make friends.