# Ashton Checklist

Any decision to consider whether a child (with or without an EHC plan) should be educated outside of their normal age group should consider the Ashton Checklist. The Ashton checklist was developed by Rebecca Ashton and colleagues in Blackburn. The checklist is being increasingly used by other local authorities when considering placement outside a child’s chronological year group.

Ticking all the boxes is **not** an indication that a child should be placed out of year. It is merely an indication that such a course should be considered

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| **Things to consider** |  |
| School, parent/carers, child/young person and involved professionals all feel that this placement would substantially increase the possibility of the child/young person’s successful inclusion in mainstream school |  |
| Consideration has been given to the long-term emotional and social impact of this placement |  |
| There has been a discussion with parents/carers about likely future issues, e.g. leaving school without completing Key Stage 4 |  |
| This decision is not being made to delay other interventions, such as a placement into a different school |  |
| All involved feel that the child/young person will be able to learn more from the children in the proposed year group than by being around children of their own age group |  |
| The child/young person will have a peer group in their new class, which is likely to continue to be somewhere that they can ‘fit in’ as the cohort matures |  |
| The plan for the child/young person includes interventions to address their needs, in addition to placement with a different year group |  |
| Consideration has been given to the likely future placements for the child/young person, e.g. returning to their own year group, or remaining with the new year group |  |
| This decision is not being made due to difficulties in making appropriately differentiated provision in the class to which the child/young person should normally transfer |  |
| The placement would not breach infant class size legislation |  |
| Consideration has been given to the rights of other children who might otherwise take that place |  |