

October 2021

Choosing a Secondary School

Bianca Allsop & Jane Swift
SENDIASS



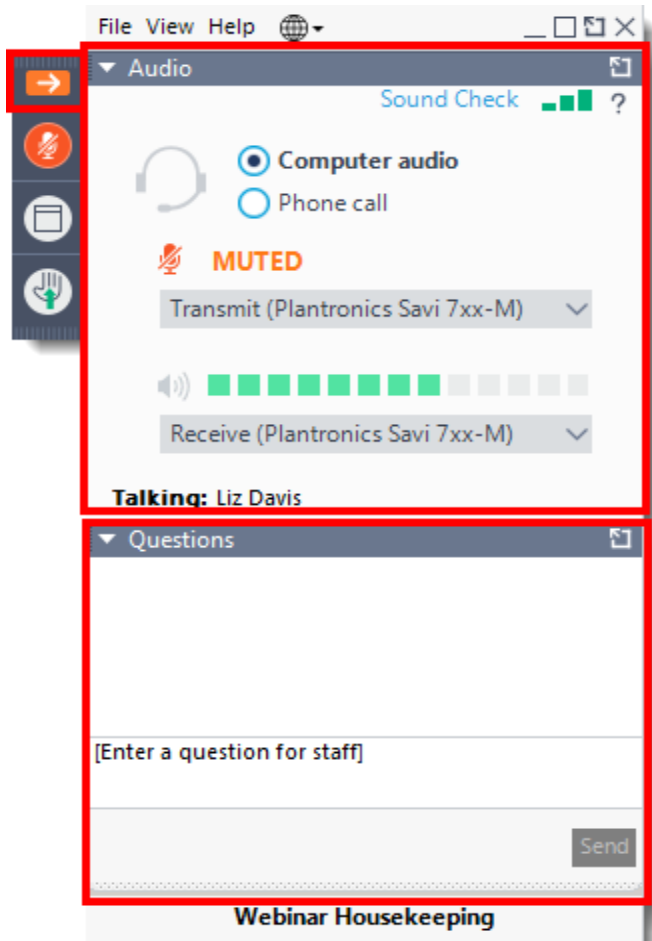
Today's webinar

- Welcome! Today's webinar is being hosted by HPCI (the parent carer forum for Hertfordshire) and delivered by Bianca Allsop from the SENDIASS team
- HPCI's main role is to influence the development and improvement of services for children and young people with SEND aged 0-25 years in Herts by representing the views and experiences of their parents and carers at a strategic decision making level.
- Make sure you add your voice and join our parent carer network – details about how to do this are at the end.

Today's webinar

- Here are a few housekeeping items to help you during the webinar.
- The webinar will be recorded and may be made available for others online at a later date.
- You will be on mute during the session but you can ask questions in the control panel on the side.

The control panel



Open and close your control panel using the orange arrow button at the top left.

Audio: you will be muted so you won't need to use this section.

Submit questions and comments via the Questions panel please don't name your child or their school/education setting

If you don't want your questions shared more widely than the attendees today, please let the meeting organizer know.

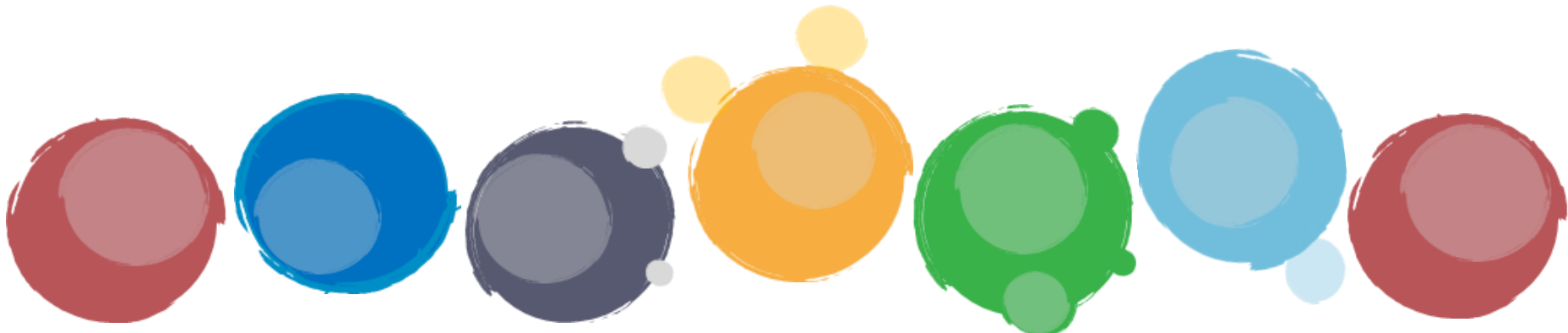


S | E | N | D | I | A | S | S

HERTFORDSHIRE

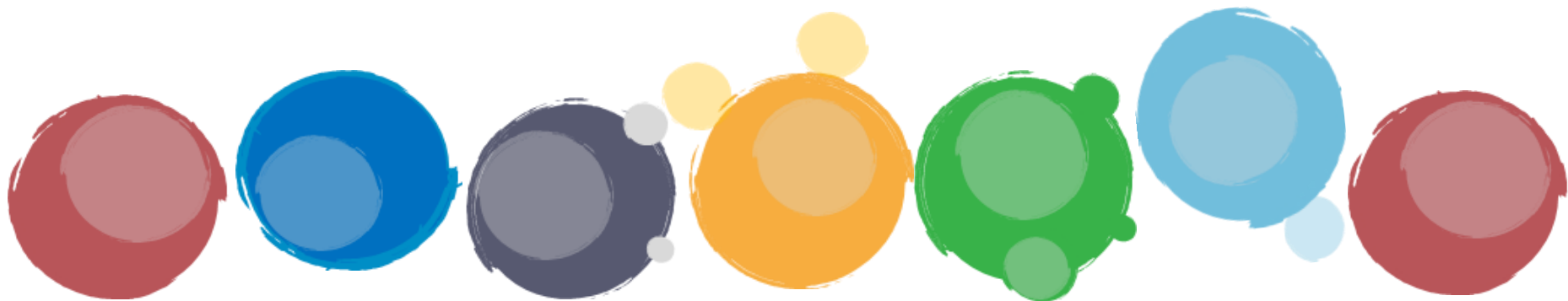
What is SENDIASS?

The **S**pecial **E**ducational **N**eeds and **D**isabilities **I**nformation, **A**dvice and **S**upport **S**ervice provides **impartial** and **confidential** information, advice and support to parents and carers of children with **Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)**, and young people and children with **SEND** aged 0-25.



By the end of this session, we hope you will know:

- The types of settings you can consider when choosing a school for your child
- Which documents are important to read when considering a school
- What questions/things to consider when looking at a setting



**Choosing
a
setting
for
your
child**



Type of setting

Early Years

Special School

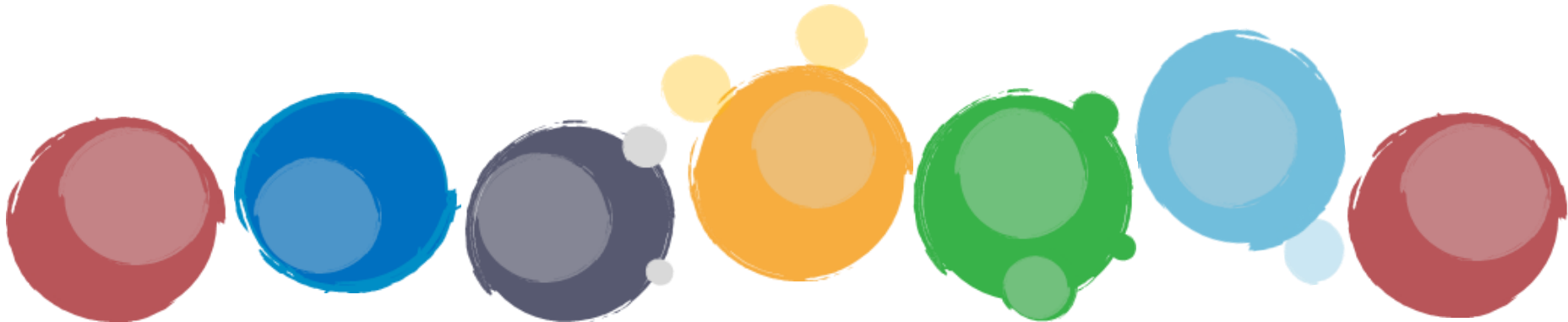
Primary

Elective Home Education

Secondary

Independent Schools

Post 16

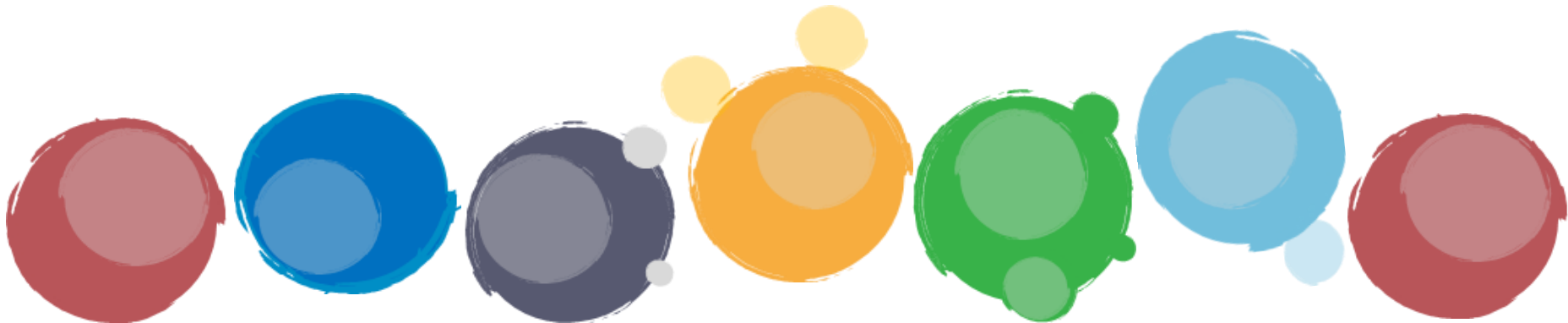


Mainstream

- **The SEND Code of Practice says (paragraph 1.27):**

"The School Admissions Code of Practice requires children and young people with SEN to be treated fairly. Admissions authorities:

- **must** consider applications from parents of children who have SEN but do not have an EHC plan on the basis of the school's published admissions criteria as part of normal admissions procedures
- **must not** refuse to admit a child who has SEN but does not have an EHC plan because they do not feel able to cater for those needs
- **must not** refuse to admit a child on the grounds that they do not have an EHC plan."



Special Schools

The types of special schools in Hertfordshire are for Children with:

- Learning Difficulties
- Severe Learning Difficulties
- Social Emotional and Mental Health
- Hearing Impairment
- Physical Impairment



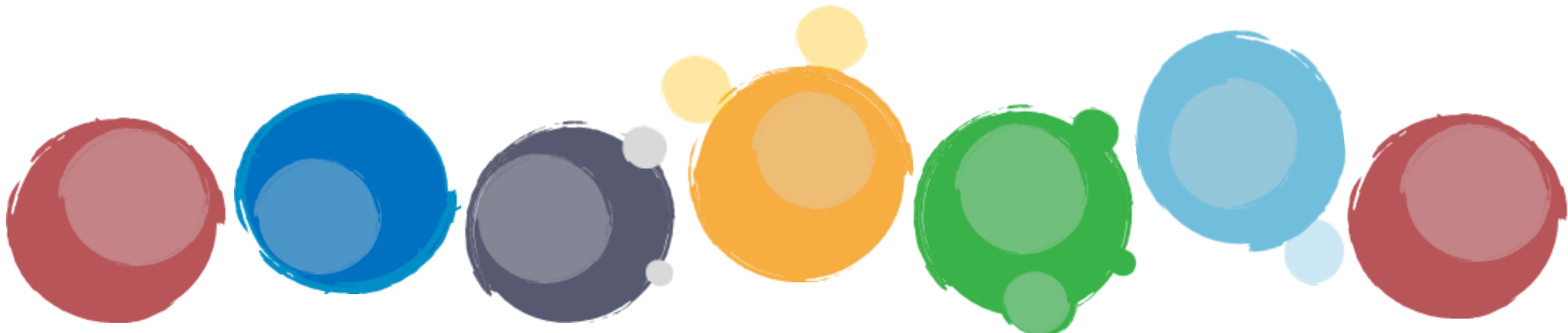
Important Documents

Accessibility Plan

Medical Needs Policy

Behaviour Policy

SEN Information Report



Further Information

Visit the school website

Browse the Local Offer

Read OFSTED reports for the school

Speak with local parents



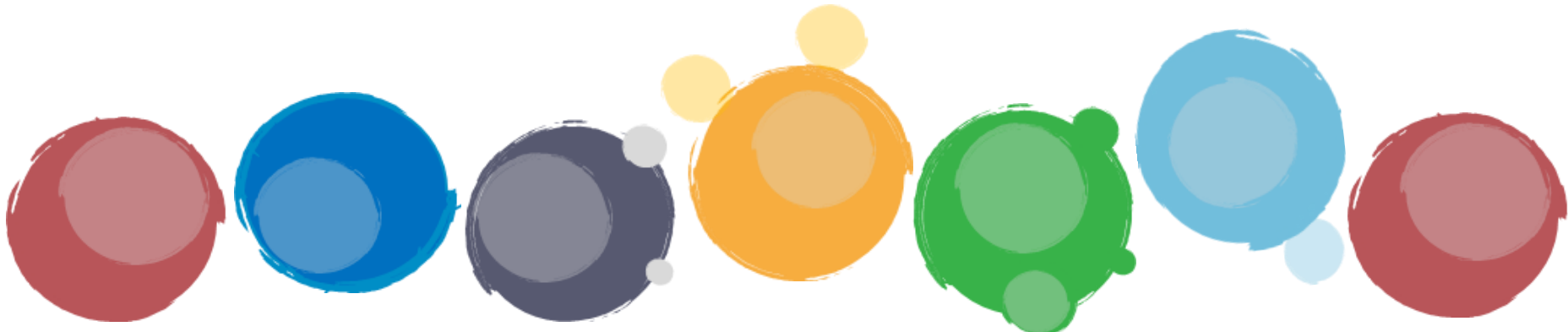
Visit the school

- Attend the tour of the school
- Speak to the Special Educational Needs Co-Ordinator (SENCo)
- Try to prepare a list of questions to ask if you have the opportunity to.
- List your child's strengths and weaknesses



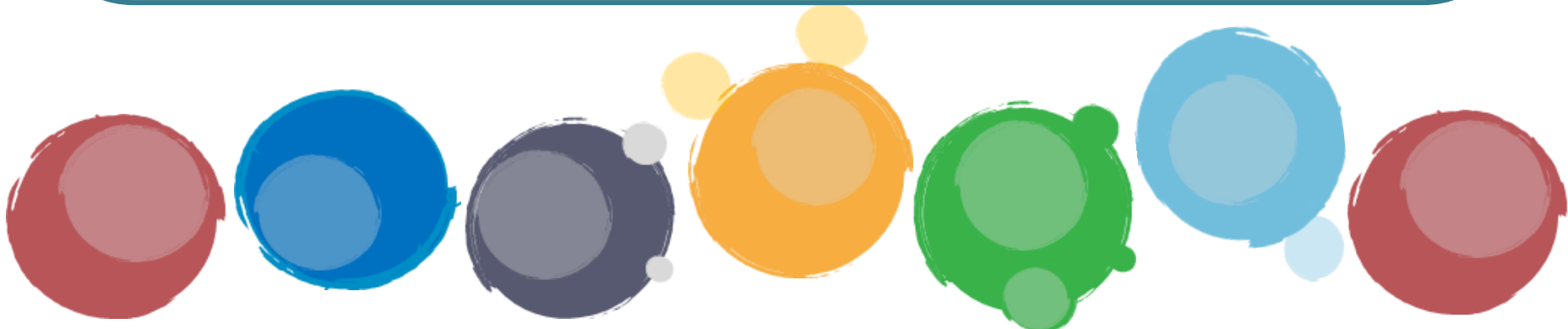
The Environment

- The school site
- Quiet/Break out areas
- How accessible is the school?
- Current things in place to support SEN
- What are the outside spaces and playground facilities?

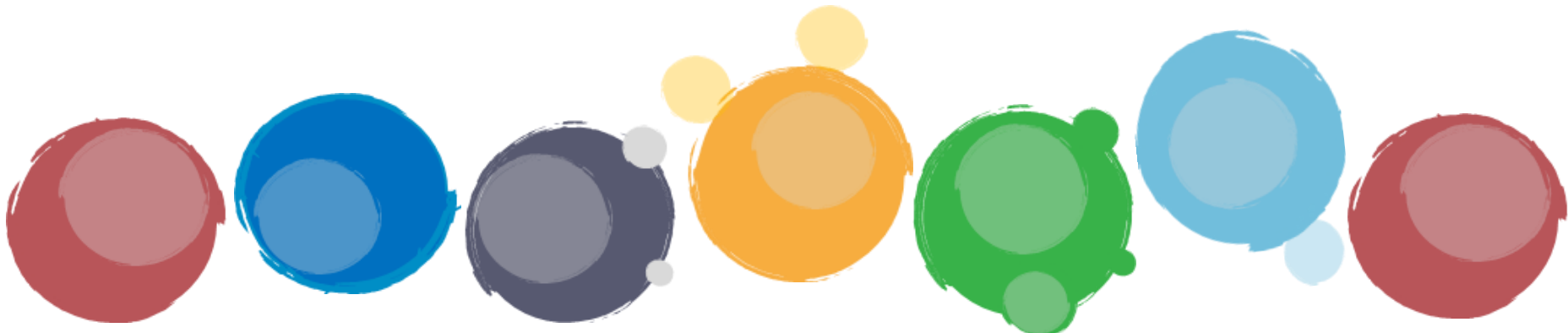


Learning & the Curriculum

- The use of different support roles
- How does additional support work?
- Current training provided to staff members
- Differentiated work
- Curriculum policies

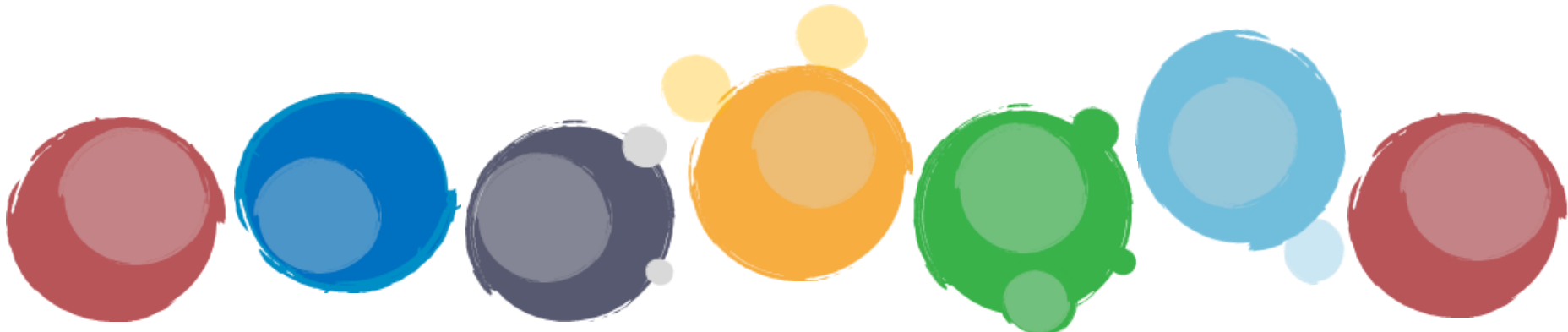


- Targets and progress?
- Experience of other children with similar needs
- Support Services available
- Curriculum and qualifications
- Learning/support outside of the curriculum

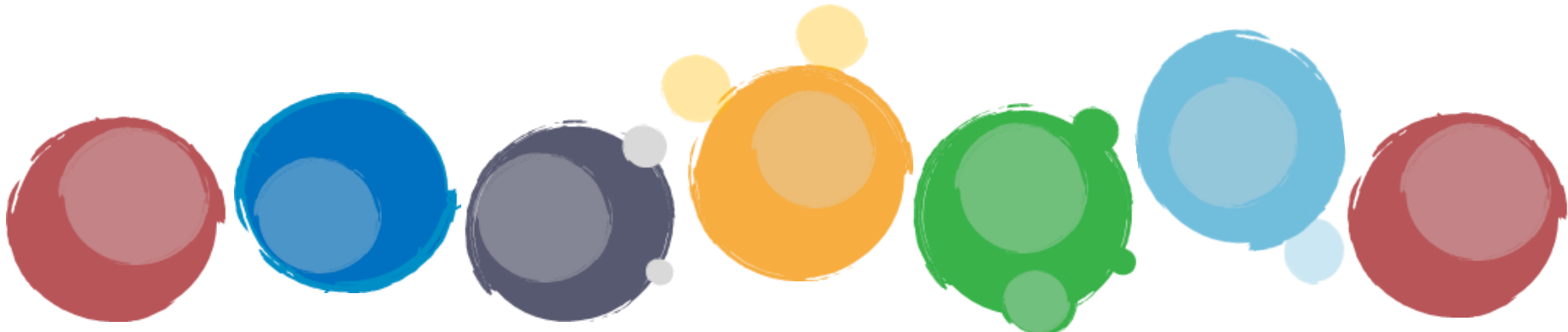


Social support & Communication

- Transition
- Pastoral care
- Mentors and Services available
- Behaviour policy
- Home school communication



- Break & Lunch times
- Support at breaks
- Break time staff
- Inclusive play
- Social opportunities
- Sharing of information

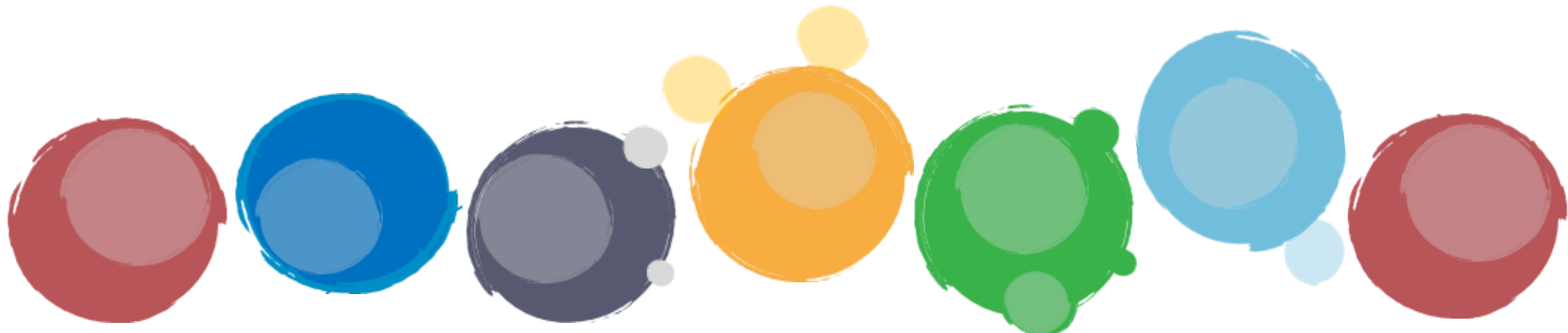


Special School Visit

- Peer group
- Qualifications
- Therapies
- Medical support



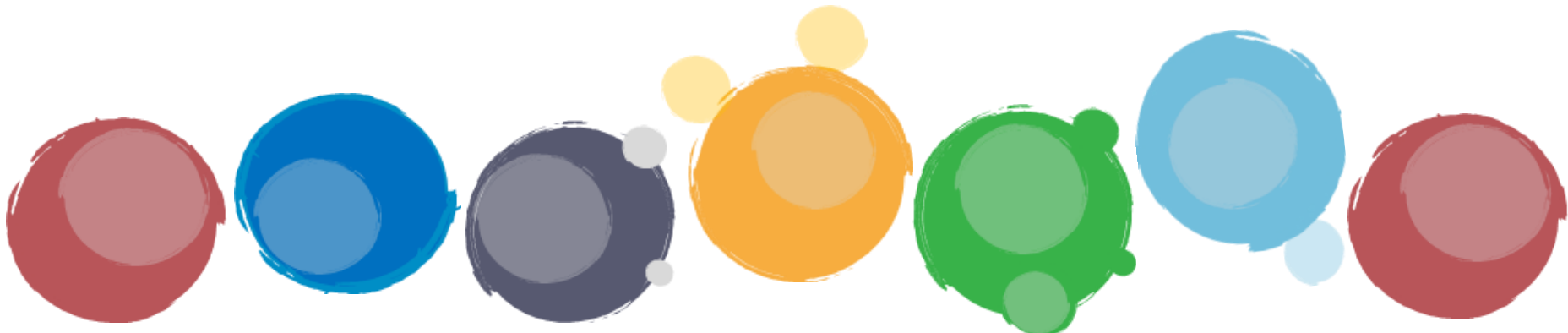
- Communication methods
- Technology available
- School facilities
- Behaviour management
- Links to mainstream schools



- **Hertfordshire SENDIASS:** www.hertssendiass.org.uk
- **Herts Parent Carer Involvement:**
www.hertsparentcarers.org.uk
- **Hertfordshire Local Offer:**
www.Hertfordshire.gov.uk/localoffer

Further support groups within Hertfordshire are listed here on the Hertfordshire Local Offer:

<https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/microsites/local-offer/services-for-parents-carers-and-families/support-groups-and-networks.aspx>



Questions



Thank you for attending!

- If you have any further questions, you can always email these to the meeting organiser: contact@hertsparentcarers.org.uk
- Not a member? Then please add your voice to those of other Hertfordshire parents and carers: www.hertsparentcarers.org.uk/get-involved/become-a-member/