

Moving on to secondary school



*A guide for parents and carers of children with
Special Educational Needs or Disabilities*

Introduction

Moving from primary to secondary schools is a big step for all children and their parents, bringing feelings of excitement as well as apprehension. For children with special educational needs, it is especially important to plan for this time.

Secondary schools are used to working with pupils with a wide range of abilities and individual needs. Different schools organise support for pupils with special educational needs in different ways. However, they all have learning support departments to make sure that pupils get the help they need.

This booklet covers some points to consider when choosing a secondary school and how to plan for the move.

How can I involve my child in choosing a school?

When thinking about secondary schools, talk to your child about:

- ◆ what they enjoy and areas of interest
- ◆ what they are looking forward to
- ◆ what will make them happy at secondary school
- ◆ what will help them learn



When should I visit schools?

Each autumn term, secondary schools hold open evenings where parents and children can look round the school, meet some of the staff and see pupils' work. You might also want to visit at a different time.

If so, telephone and ask to make an appointment to visit the SENCO who is responsible for special educational needs.

Before you visit think about:

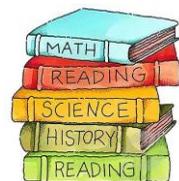
- would you like to look around the school?
- will you take your child with you or visit by yourself?
- would you like to take a friend or relative with you?

Is there any information I can get before visiting a school?

You could:

 speak to other parents about the school. look at
 the school's website and prospectus.

Try to keep an open mind as different things are important to different parents. You know what is likely to suit your child best.



What should I ask during the visit?

Consider having a list of things you want to find out about when you visit.
If you visit more than one school, it can help to make notes.

Here are some questions you might want to ask:

How would the school help my child to settle in and make friends?

How does the school group pupils?

What is the average class size?

How does the school make sure all the teachers know about children's needs?

What support would my child get?

How would I know how my child is getting on? What

lunchtime and after-school clubs are there? What if

my child is unable to do their homework?

How much homework do students have?

How does the school deal with bullying?

How would the school make sure my child has the chance to take part in all areas of the curriculum?

What courses are offered for GCSE choices?

When do I apply for a secondary school?

You will receive an application form and a booklet about secondary schools in the **Autumn term of Year 6**.

The booklet will give details about each school and the dates of their open evenings.

You must complete the form and return it by the date given.

You will hear in the spring term which school your child has been allocated.

If you do not get the school you wanted, you have a right of appeal. The booklet explains how you can do this.

How do schools help children with secondary transfer?

Primary schools do a range of things to help their pupils prepare for secondary school. These include:

- talking with them about going to secondary school and things they are looking forward to or worried about.

- arranging extra visits to secondary schools.

- passing on copies of individual support plans to the new school.

- inviting the secondary school SENCOs to review meetings in year 6.

Primary and secondary schools often have very good links. For example, staff may spend some time in another school getting to know the pupils and the work they do.

Getting organised at home ...

- ◆ stick a copy of your child's timetable on the kitchen wall
- ◆ encourage your child to pack their school bag the night before. It's fine to help them with this if they need it
- ◆ have a place where they can keep all their school things safely when they come home
- ◆ plan a homework routine

TIMETABLE					
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1					
2	History	Languages	Math	Biology	History
3	Math	Art	Economics	Chemistry	Art
4	Biology	Chemistry	Self-Defense	P.E	P.E
LD					
5	Chemistry	Biology	History	Technology	Languages
6	Economics	Technology	Languages	Math	Technology
AS	Self-Defense	Self-Defense	P.E	Art	Economics
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Planning with the secondary school ...

- ◆ We will make sure that we share all important information (such as medical needs) with the school at one of our transition meetings that you will be invited to.
- ◆ There may be things your child particularly wants staff at the school to know about that you need to share.
- ◆ Talk about any specific things you are concerned about (maybe moving round the school, break/lunch times, homework)
- ◆ Discuss what your child should do if they are worried about something
- ◆ Make sure you know who to speak to at the school if you have any questions or concerns

- ◆ Find out how the school will let you know how your child has settled in and how well they are doing

MH & AB Jan 2019

Notes: