

## **Supporting Successful Transitions from Primary to Secondary School – suggestions from the webinar chat**

During this webinar, attendees were asked to share ways that they might support pupils' transitions from Primary to Secondary school. There were some great ideas in the chat box, which have been compiled below.

**Q: In the chat, please share some of the innovative ways you may support transition:**

- Virtual tour with introductions from all departments
- Video tours that include areas of school such as corridors/changing areas etc
- Outdoor mixing activities with new pupils from mainstream and our existing year 6 pupils.
- Teachers from high schools have been in to speak to the children and show them planners/ info leaflets.
- Guided tours for individual students and parents for SEN students.
- Getting used to parts of the new uniform by wearing bits at school.
- Students with EHCPs are having video calls with LSAs if they can't meet in person.
- Summer school organised
- Letters from outgoing year groups (i.e. Y8 to incoming Y5 in our 3-tier system)
- exploring their new school website with an adult. Practising the journey before school starts
- Tours for new students, virtual meetings with primary schools, provision maps and student profiles
- We have ensured that our most vulnerable learners have visited their new school (depending on the school day or after school.) Secondary teachers have been into school.
- We have made booklets for all SEND pupils with photographs, maps of school, frequently asked questions, photographs of uniform, key staff, times of the day etc.
- Parents/carers meeting with form tutor virtually with the young person for a chat catch up.

- A transition passport that includes:

What I am good at

What I have difficulties

What I need to help me and how I like to be helped

And more

- Brochures made with lots of pictures for the children to look at over the summer and see pictures of staff and know routines.
- Parent survival guide to transition.
- We are inviting individual SEND, LAC, PLAC, etc with one parent for an individual initial visit with me as SENDCo and then a series of shorter visits through term 6 to meet individual members of staff. We are taking pupils from 86 primary schools. On the website there is a virtual tour, meet the form tutor videos, e-book for parent, e-book for pupils to access.
- Using Autism team's transition resources
- I have talked/trained to a whole secondary school staff about the needs of a specific child who was an AAC user.
- PE pupil Passport- where the young person takes it with them- shares their likes/dislikes thoughts/feelings when it comes to different activities/experiences.
- Video - a day in the life of a Year 7
- Ensure children are introduced to key adults (pastoral staff) in the secondary school before the end of the summer term. Maybe visit the site and meet them after the school day if they can't visit during the day.
- Young person from Y7 from the primary school in previous years doing a video call to the group of transitioning students to ask questions etc of them of what it is like when they are in their primary.
- My transition guide books where children get to score their feelings, ask questions, list what they are looking forward to/worrying about, writing down a 'must remember' section e.g. bus times, lesson times etc.
- Additionally some of my additional intervention team are going into primary school to complete observation and meeting the pupils(s). I also send home a

questionnaire to both the pupil and the parent so I can create a personalized one-page portrait to share with all the teachers they will have in September.

- Y6 student compiling a PowerPoint about themselves to share with key adults at secondary.
- <https://www.annafreud.org/schools-and-colleges/resources/supporting-childrens-transition-to-secondary-school-guidance-for-parents-and-carers/>
- YST have just released some findings around why parents/families choose schools- really interesting research to also highlight around how schools can communicate to families about their intentions/approaches  
<https://www.youthsporttrust.org/news-insight/research-papers/wellbeing-survey>