

Parents – top tips for transition

1. Be aware that the top ten reported worries young people have about starting a new school are:
 - being bullied
 - not making friends
 - getting lost
 - homework
 - not being able to do the work
 - travelling to and from school
 - not having the right books and equipment
 - not knowing what to do if there is a problem
 - not getting on with teachers
 - getting into trouble.
2. Be aware that your child is likely to have similar worries but may not be able to express them and is likely to find the changes involved stressful.
3. Ask the appropriate member of staff at your child's primary school to work with them on:
 - developing a list of their strengths and difficulties
 - drawing up a list of all the similarities and differences between primary and secondary school
 - working through the 'Moving on' booklet to help them organise their thoughts about the secondary school transfer
 - making a time line of key dates for when things are going to happen.
4. Explain that you will both be going for a visit to their secondary school and using the completed 'Moving on' booklet. Identify the most important questions to ask at that visit.
5. Arrange a meeting for you and your child with the SENCO of your child's secondary school before the end of the summer term. Get permission from them to bring a camera along to that meeting so that photos of key areas and staff can be taken.
6. During this meeting:
 - show the SENCO the list of strengths, difficulties and identified differences between primary and secondary school
 - ask the questions identified on the 'When I visit the school' sheet
 - identify who the key staff would be and where the key areas around the school will be for your child
 - while taking a tour of the school, take photos of key people and areas.

7. Following this meeting:

- consolidate the information using the sheet 'Following the visit I made to my new school'
- Use the photos taken on the visit to school of key staff and areas to make a booklet about your child's secondary school which he/she can refer to over the summer holiday.