



# Transition Information for Parents

## Transition for Primary to Secondary school for pupils with Additional Learning Needs

Primary and secondary schools work together as part of the transition process, to put support strategies in place for your child in the new school setting. As a parent, there are things you can do with your child at home that will help them during what can often be an anxious time for them.

The Difficulty	How To Help
Memory: Lots of new subjects, difficulty remembering teachers' names	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Make sure your child has written the name of the subject teacher on the front of their exercise book and on their time table.</li> </ul>
Planning: Understanding their timetable, where do they have to be and when?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Look at your child's time table with them. Colour code the timetable, using a different colour for each subject.</li> <li>The colour could be based on the colour of the exercise book your child has for that subject.</li> <li>Make several copies of your child's time table and have these where they can be easily seen e.g. bedroom wall, pin board / fridge door in kitchen</li> </ul>
Personal organisation: equipment needed each day is different	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Look at your child's time table and school diary with them each night. Ask them to look at what subjects they have so that they pack the correct books etc. Remove any books or equipment not needed.</li> <li>If your child has a phone, set up a regular reminder alerts for equipment needed such as PE kit, swimming kit or cooking ingredients etc.</li> <li>Make sure your child has their school uniform ready the night before</li> <li>Have a checklist / 'To Do' list for the morning routine so nothing is forgotten</li> </ul>
Directional difficulties: change of classroom for each lesson, having to find their way around the new school	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Your child will be given a plan of their new school. Look at this together to familiarise them with the layout of the school. Plan routes around the school and familiarise them with the location of the canteen and toilets etc.</li> <li>Use colour to highlight the different subject departments in the school (use the same subject colours as your child used for their time table).</li> <li>Schools arrange a visit before transition so that your child can familiarise themselves with their new school.</li> <li>Reassure your child that they will not be expected to know their way around school straight away and will be given time to settle in.</li> </ul>
Anxiety: due to unfamiliarity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Look at the new school's website to find out more information about what to expect</li> <li>Make sure your child attends the school 'Welcome Day'</li> <li>Make sure your child knows exactly how they will be getting to and from school e.g. which bus service they will be using, where they will be catching it from and what time.</li> <li>Reassure your child that it is normal to feel a bit nervous about moving up to secondary school and that their friends will be feeling the same</li> </ul>