



Transition from primary to secondary school

WHAT IS DIFFERENT ABOUT SECONDARY SCHOOL?

- Classes may be larger
- No personal desks
- Use of lockers to store belongings
- Subject specific teachers
- Possible independent travel to school
- Homework – greater volume and expectation
- The need for meeting deadlines
- Greater expectations

KEY TRANSITION DIFFICULTIES

- Negotiating the way around school – possibly getting lost and being late for class.
- Meeting new children who may not understand his/her difficulties
- Meeting new teachers who do not recognise / have been made aware of difficulties.
- Learning about the rules of school.
- Learning about the timetable and the appropriate books and tools required.
- Carrying equipment around all day – no central place to return to – therefore increasing the chances of losing equipment or having incorrect equipment for the next class.
- Independently organising own work and managing own timetable.
- In PE and games, coping with more complex activities such as changing in/out of PE kit.
- Coping with new topics he/she has not studied before.

STRATEGIES

- Information to be transferred over so that new teachers and Senco know a profile of strengths and difficulties.
- Visits to school to take place over an agreed time e.g. one term.
- Draw up a map of school/give opportunity to take photos to become familiar with school setting.
- Take photos of buildings, rooms and teachers to aid memory.
- Parents to have opportunity to visit the school.

- Timetable to be given as soon as possible – keep several copies on view around the house.
- Consideration of equipment needed e.g. writing slope, handwriting grip.
- Consideration of help for organising work.
- Consideration of help in note taking.
- Extra time applied for in exams.
- Consideration of where locker placed in school and method to transport books and equipment.
- Mentor / tutor introduced before new term.
- Buddy system in place for at least first two terms.
- Extra time allowed for homework.
- Work written down for student on an ongoing basis if required.
- 3 way communication book between school, home and student.
- Doing as much preparation for the school day the night before.
- Use of a visual timetable at home and or diary to schedule things to remember.