



WIAS

Wolverhampton Information, Advice and Support Service

Transition Tips for parents and carers

Transition is important at every stage of education whether moving to a new class, moving to primary, secondary school or college. It can be a very anxious time for a child and may be more anxious for a child with special educational needs or a disability (SEND). There will be new faces, new buildings and new routines to master. As a parent, you will want to help your child in any way you can.

Your child's current school will have experience of planning transitions and will likely have transition/taster days arranged with local schools and colleges. Schools and colleges can offer additional transition support for a child with SEND, depending on the individual's needs. For example, you may be able to visit the school or college at a much quieter time, perhaps when it is empty so you can take photos to help familiarise with the school buildings and layout.

Some schools may offer workshops over the summer for children in year 6 to help them prepare and give them an opportunity to explore any worries. Check with school to see if this is available.

The most important thing is to think about what your child will find most difficult (e.g., change in routine, environment, getting to know new people, homework and timetable expectations, the journey to and from the setting) and to plan and discuss what support can be in place to help.

Things to consider

- Try to find out what your child might be anxious about and what could make things better.
- Think about what has worked well in the past when preparing for new experiences.
- Contact the Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENCo) or SEND lead at the new setting before term starts to discuss your child's needs. You may wish to explore and agree a plan of support. There is usually a conversation between both settings. A meeting with you, your child, both settings and any other services involved in supporting your child will give everyone an opportunity to ensure a successful transition.
- Find out how and who you can liaise with at the new setting.
- Let the new setting know about any signs to look out for that your child is anxious, and the best ways to communicate with them.
- An opportunity to meet with the new tutor and have a copy of the timetable ahead of starting may be particularly helpful.
- A scrapbook or journal around transition can be reassuring. This can include leaflets, maps, times of the school day, checklists, and key staff.

Please contact us if you require further information, advice or support.

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Complete our contact form at: <https://wolvesiass.org/contact-us/index.html>

FACTSHEET