KS2 to KS3 Transition Overview

This timeline provides a framework for schools, families and professionals to work together throughout Year 5, Year 6 and the start of Year 7.

It is intended as guidance rather than a fixed process, as some children and young people (CYP), particularly those with additional needs, may require a more personalised approach.

Decisions about transition support should always be based on the individual needs of the CYP.

Universal Transition

Universal transition support is available to all CYP moving from Year 6 to Year 7. The timeline outlines the key activities that schools can provide for every CYP, such as open evenings, transition lessons, information sharing between schools, and opportunities to visit their new secondary school. These activities are designed to help them feel prepared, confident and ready for the move to secondary education.

Targeted and Targeted Plus Transition

Targeted transition support is for CYP who may need some additional help to manage the move to secondary school. This may include CYP with SEND, emerging emotional wellbeing needs, medical needs, attendance concerns, or other vulnerabilities. The timeline identifies additional planning, enhanced communication with families, extra visits, and personalised transition activities to help meet individual needs and reduce anxiety about the move.

Specialist Transition

Specialist transition support is for CYP with the most complex needs, including those with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) or those requiring significant multi-agency involvement. The timeline sets out key statutory processes, such as annual reviews and phase transfer reviews, alongside detailed planning between families, schools, the local authority and relevant professionals. This ensures appropriate support, provision and resources are in place before the CYP starts secondary school.

Working Together

Successful transition is achieved through partnership working. Families, CYP, primary schools, secondary schools and professionals all play an important role in helping CYP feel prepared, supported and ready for the next stage of their education.

The aim is to ensure that every CYP starts secondary school with the information, support and opportunities they need to thrive.