



Moving On

An introduction to secondary school

After year 6, in September 2026, you will be moving to secondary school. Moving on can be very exciting. You may feel you have 'outgrown' primary school. It can be an anxious time too. Starting to plan ahead and think about the differences now will help you to settle in quicker. Here is some information that may help.

Secondary school is for pupils aged from 11 to 16 years. The schools are usually much bigger than primary schools and can have as many as 2000 pupils. The pupils are taught the KS3 and 4 curriculums. Some secondary schools also have a sixth form. You may learn more subjects than you currently take at primary school.



You may already wear a school uniform in your primary school. You will need a new uniform for your secondary school. Most schools will have a formal uniform, with trousers, shirt, tie and a blazer. Others may be more informal and allow polo shirts in the school colour with the school logo.

Secondary school is organised differently from primary school. Each different subject is usually taught by a different teacher in a different classroom.

There will be an opportunity to visit your school before you start to become familiar with the building. You will be able to take photos and make them into a transition book. This will help you to remember important people and key

places within the school. A map of the school may also be available to take away.

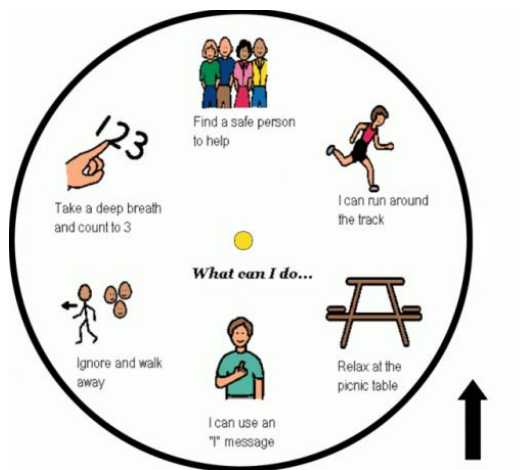
This will give you a chance to work out in which area of the school each subject area is located. There will also be lots of staff and other pupils that will be able to help you settle in.



You may be given a planner, which is like a diary. This is where you will make a note of your homework and gain merits for good work. There will also be a copy of your weekly timetable inside to help you remember which lesson you need to be in. It will also tell you which room the lesson will be held in. At first, you may be anxious about finding your way around the school building. This is normal and all new students will feel the same. Why not start to use a diary now; this will get you into the routine of writing down important things to remember. Try making a note of any homework set by your teacher.

The school day is organised slightly different from primary as most secondary schools start before 9am. You will start the day in your form room for registration and then move around the school for each lesson.

There is usually a break in the morning and in the afternoon. You may be familiar with this being called playtime at primary. Break time is a more grown up way of describing the free time between lessons. You may find the outside areas quite overwhelming at first. There is usually a quiet area or classroom that you will be able to visit during these times, if you would rather not join your peers outside. There will also be a number of clubs that you can join. You will be able to find out about these during your visits.




This is a choice wheel. You might find one useful for break times. This can be personalised to include the choices available to you at your secondary school.

As there are many more pupils, the noise levels during changeover time, between lessons, may be much louder than you are used to. If this is something that will make you anxious, arrangements may be made for you to leave lessons slightly earlier.

Homework in secondary school will be slightly different from what you are used to now. You will normally be given up to 3 pieces of homework per night and may need to spend around 30 minutes on each piece. It may be difficult to fit this all in at first. You will soon get into a new routine. If you have homework from primary school, perhaps you could start to time how long you spend on it. This will give you an idea of how much longer you will need to study.

Doing your homework



What are the rules?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Something like this may be useful to help you remember when you should do your homework and for how long.

There are lots of things to remember for secondary school; different books for different days, PE kit on different days, homework to hand in etc.

You may like to make some checklists to help you remember. One like this may be helpful.

Evening checklist

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Check my planner to see what homework I have to do tonight.

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Complete my homework.

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Put my homework in my school bag

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Check my timetable to see what lessons I have tomorrow.

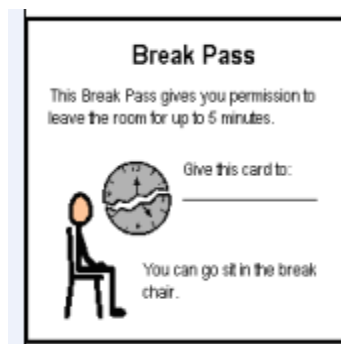
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Pack my bag with the books I need for my lessons.

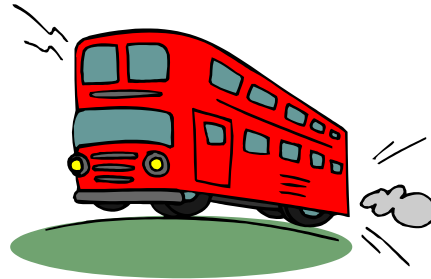
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Make sure I have the correct equipment for my lessons.

Some students may find some lessons difficult. Talking to the teachers will normally help. Sometimes the staff will allow pupils to leave the room for a short period of time. You will need permission to leave the room though and maybe given a pass.



Try looking at the websites for the secondary school you are going to. They contain lots of useful information about the school and staff.



How will you get to school? It would be a good idea to start thinking about this and planning what time you will need to leave home. You may need some practice on walking the route or learn more about travelling on public transport before you begin.

You may want to start to make a note of important information about yourself that you would like to share with your secondary school. You could make a transition passport. This will help the staff at your new school to get to know you and how to help you effectively.

Write one thing that you think will be good about moving onto secondary school...