



Primary to Secondary Transitions

Timing of Transition

The transition review process for primary school children with a statement of SEN should begin in the Spring Term of Y5. Meeting with families at this time gives school staff the opportunity to introduce the subject of transition, let parents/carers know what to expect and give guidance about exploring possible future schools. Parents and carers can then collect information, visit schools and ask advice before attending the Y6 statutory review in the Autumn Term of Y6.

In the Spring Term of Y6 (by March), all Darlington parents/carers should be contacted by the local authority about which secondary school their child will be attending in September. Pre-visits will be arranged for pupils to see their secondary school and meet secondary school staff. Primary school staff and/or parents may accompany pupils on their visits, and secondary school staff may also visit pupils in their primary setting. Other transition events may be scheduled, such as an activity or sports day at the secondary schools, whereby children have the opportunity to visit the school in an informal way and meet Y6 pupils from other primary schools.

Involving Children in Transition

Wherever possible, children should be involved in gathering information and making decisions about which secondary school they want to attend. Children may also be encouraged to take digital photos on school visits or write a list of questions that they would like to ask secondary pupils or staff before moving to secondary school.

Timing of Transition related support available

Schools often provide pupils with transition booklets, maps, photos and other resources to help support them and prepare them for this upcoming change. Parents are encouraged to work with their child to complete any transition materials and to communicate with the school about their child's needs and wishes throughout the transition process. Services are often available at secondary schools for children who might need additional support during the transition period, such as peer mentoring services or a quiet room that can be used by pupils during lunch and break times.

Should parents have any questions about the transition process, they can contact the SENCo (SEN Coordinator) at their child's primary schools. This is the main individual responsible for making sure that information is exchanged, plans are in place and children and parents/carers are kept fully involved and informed.

Darlington SEND Information, Advice and Support Service is based at:

North Lodge
Gladstone Street
Darlington
DL3 6JX

Telephone: 01325 405878

Email: iass@darlington.gov.uk

Website: www.darlington.gov.uk/iass

The SEND Adviser (IASS) is Lorraine Holden.

Darlington Special Educational Needs Team is based at:

Town Hall
Darlington
DL1 5QT

Telephone: 01325 405891

The Special Educational Needs Team are Elaine Allison, Jacqui Robinson, Linda Peacock and Sarah Booth.

Other useful factsheets:

1. Inclusion
2. Organising your Paperwork
3. Choosing a School
4. Primary to Secondary Transitions
5. Exclusions

Alternative sources of information:

Department for Education

Website: www.education.gov.uk

Independent Parental Special Education Advice (IPSEA)

Advice Line : 0800 018 4016

Website: www.ipsea.org.uk