



Moving up to Secondary School

Moving from one school to another can be a very scary process for many children. It is so important that a child is as prepared as possible for the big move so they can feel comfortable and happy when starting secondary school. This booklet contains information and useful tips to help support both you and your child through the transition.



WARRINGTON
Borough Council



What you and your child will need to know before starting the new school

The admission booklet is available online on the council's website. Hard copies of the booklet are also available in all schools, Contact Warrington and libraries. A letter and information leaflet is also sent out to every parent/carer who has a child in year 6 of a Warrington school.

The council's admissions team hold drop-in sessions every Wednesday throughout September up to the closing date at the end of October where parents/carers can come and access the booklet and apply online with a member of the admissions team. No appointment is necessary.

- Look through the admissions booklet at the different schools available and what each school specialises in.
- Make sure you are fully aware of the closing date for the admissions form. It is very important that this is handed in before the closing date.

- Contact either your SEND Information, Advice and Support Service on 01925 442978 or you can contact the schools you are interested in directly to request a school prospectus.
- Visit as many schools as you can to compare and contrast.
- Carefully think about and prepare a list of questions to ask when you visit the schools.
- Find out when the school open evenings are and plan to attend. If you cannot make the open evening contact the school and arrange another visit.
- Does your child have special educational needs? You may want to arrange a meeting with the school SENCO (special educational needs coordinator).
- Where the school is?

Questions for your child to ask

- How do I get to school?
- Will I be getting a bus? If so, what number, where do I get on and off?
- Can I get a bus pass? How much does the bus cost?

- Will I be walking? Which way will I go?
- What date does the new school year start?
- What time does the school start and finish?
- What is the school uniform like?
- What equipment will be needed for school?
- Can I keep things safely in school?
- What will happen on the first day at school?
- How many children will be in my class?
- How does the school encourage children to mix and make friends?

Other points to consider

- The rules of the school
- Break times

If your child has special educational needs you may want to ask:

- Are all areas of the school accessible to your child?
- How will your child be supported outside of class times?
- What facilities does the school have to support your child?
- Do any of the current teaching staff have experience of working with children who have the same needs as your child?

Make sure you ask as many questions as you would like during your school visits. This is your opportunity to find as much information out about the school as possible!

DON'T BE AFRAID TO ASK!

How you can support your child preparing for secondary school

Getting to School safely

This is a major worry for many children when moving up to secondary school. Once a school has been allocated for your child you can then help prepare them for their new school. You will know where your child's secondary school is located and can have a few practice journeys to and from school together.

- If your child is attending a secondary school with another child they are friends with they might want to travel together to and from school.
- Make sure your child feels confident about travelling to and from school before the term starts.

How to find the way around school

- Meetings will be organised between the primary and the secondary school so there will be opportunities to look around and speak with staff from the secondary school.
- Planners and maps showing classrooms will be given out on the first day of school.
- There will be a buddy system or prefect who looks after groups/individual pupils.
- Staff from your child's allocated secondary school may visit your child's primary school to talk to them about the move to secondary school.



Equipment

- Your child will need certain equipment and will receive an equipment list from the allocated secondary school; you will usually receive this at the start of the summer break. You will also be able to access this information on the schools website or request this information via email or by writing to the school.
- Buy a large storage box for home where you can keep all school books, kits and equipment so everything is in one place.

School Uniform

- Each school has its own uniform which will need to be worn at all times. You will be provided with a uniform list from the secondary school your child is due to start at. You will usually receive this towards the end of year 6. You will be informed of where you can buy the uniform and of the costs.
- Some children struggle with a school tie as many primary schools do not have ties. If this is the case teach your child how to tie their tie during the summer break so they are ready for school.
- Put your child's name in all of their items and uniform. This way if anything was to get lost there is a good chance it will be found. You can either buy labels or simply use a marker pen and put your child's name on the labels of their clothing.

PE Kit

- Some schools will have a number of different PE kits. There will be rules about the colour of the kit, the type of t-shirt and type of shorts/skirts.
- Like the school uniform, try to put your child's name in their entire PE wear in case it is mislaid.
- It would be really useful to have a separate bag for your child's PE kit so it doesn't get mixed up with other school stuff.
- It is important you make sure your child has the correct footwear depending on what PE lesson they have, this should be on their timetable.

Timetable

- Everybody will be given a school timetable. Some schools have a timetable which runs over two weeks; others will have a one week timetable. All timetables will show start times and end times of lessons.
- It would be useful to go over the abbreviations for lessons before September:
 - Find out from the school how long the timetable lasts
 - What abbreviations may be used on their timetable
 - Request an example timetable to go through with your child.



The following abbreviations may be used on a school timetable:

Ar	Art
Dr	Drama
En	English
MFL	Modern Foreign Language
Ft	Food Technology
Ger	German
Geo	Geography
Hist	History
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
Ma	Maths
Mu	Music
PE	Physical Education
PSHE	Personal, Social and Health Education
RE	Religious Education
Sc	Science
Sp	Spanish
Tech	Technology
TT	Textile Technology

Subjects like Technology operate on a carousel system and will need to be updated.

- A time table will also usually say the class teachers name or initials and the room number for the subject.
- Make a copy of your child's timetable so you are able to see what lessons they have and when. Also make a copy for your child and put it up somewhere in the house.
- If possible let your child have a watch, although time keeping is not always a problem as most secondary schools have a bell.

Lunch Time

- All schools have a cafeteria system where there is a choice of what to eat.
- Some children prefer to take a packed lunch to school.
- Year 7 pupils are usually allowed to get their dinner before the other pupils when they first begin at their new school so they get used to the lunch times.
- Some schools set the lunch breaks so the year 7 pupils have their lunch time alone throughout the whole of year 7.
- If there are any problems at lunch times in the school with other pupils make sure you let somebody know and this can be resolved.

Some key differences between primary school and secondary school

- Corridors.
- Different class rooms for different subjects.
- Different teachers for different subjects.
- Different subjects - some using special equipment or protective clothing.
- Playground - yard.
- After school clubs and activities.
- Exams.
- Homework - There will be more of it in secondary school. A homework diary/planner will be provided by the school which will be available for parents/carers to look over and add comments when needed.
- A bell to signal the start/end of lessons.

Secondary schools can offer a wide range of activities:

- To develop sports and leisure interests.
- To develop music or artistic ability with access to well equipped specialised teaching areas.
- To be taught by teachers with specialist knowledge in particular areas.

Homework/Home Learning

- Most secondary schools have homework clubs. Some are before or after school, some are at lunch times. Homework clubs are there to help support pupils complete homework.

How can you help with homework?

- Check the homework diary/planner everyday.
- Negotiate a set time for doing homework.
- Encourage homework to be completed on the day it is set.
- Offer help with homework, if necessary, but do not complete it for your child.

- If your child has difficulty recording homework at the end of the lesson arrange with the school for someone else to record it in their homework diary/planner for them.
- If your child is really struggling with homework e.g. taking too long, not understanding the task, attempt as much as possible and let the teacher know through the diary or by commenting in a subject book.
- If problems continue and your child is struggling generally with homework you should contact the subject teacher or year head directly.

The best learning strategy will be:

**READ IT
UNDERSTAND IT
WRITE IT
SAY IT
CHECK IT**

Checklist when visiting schools

School name:

Likes:

.....

Dislikes:

.....

School starts at: and finishes at:

Would you like to go to this school? YES NO

School name:

Likes:

.....

Dislikes:

.....

School starts at: and finishes at:

Would you like to go to this school? YES NO

Checklist when visiting schools

School name:

Likes:

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Dislikes:

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School starts at: and finishes at:

Would you like to go to this school? YES NO

School name:

Likes:

.....

Dislikes:

.....

School starts at: and finishes at:

Would you like to go to this school? YES NO

Notes:



Notes:

For anymore information or if you would like the SEND Information, Advice Support Service to support you, you can contact us on:
Tel: 01925 442978

Email: imacdonald@warrington.gov.uk
or visit www.warringtonsendiass.co.uk





Warrington SEND Information, Advice and Support Service,
Families and Wellbeing Directorate,
New Town House,
Buttermarket Street,
Warrington WA1 2NH.
Tel: 01925 442978

Email: imacdonald@warrington.gov.uk
Web: warringtonsendiass.co.uk

