

Barnet Autism Advisory Team

ADVICE FOR TRANSITION TO SECONDARY SCHOOL

For Autistic young people

INDIVIDUAL WORK

TRANSITION BOOK, ONE PAGE PASSPORT, and DRAW YOUR SCHOOL

A **Transition Book** has been provided and should be completed with the Year 6 student and a staff member that knows them well. Where the young person is unable to communicate verbally, pictures can be inserted, adults can fill in or talking mats could be used (<http://www.talkingmats.com/>). The passport includes a page called 'getting ready for secondary school' and this will help you to identify any worries the young person might be having and areas that need more focus throughout this term. This book can then be passed on to the secondary school and given to teachers/other practitioners who will be working with the young person. There is also a **One Page Passport** that can be filled out using the information from the **Transition Book**. This can give the new secondary school a brief but informative overview of the young person's needs. This will be invaluable in understanding the meaning of behaviour and supportive strategies.

TRANSITION MEETING

It's extremely important to open channels of communication with the young person's allocated secondary setting. We recommend that during the next few weeks, aim to organise a virtual transition meeting which should involve, if possible:

- Parents/carers
- Current teacher and teaching assistants working with the child,
- Current SENCo
- Secondary Form Tutor (if known)
- Secondary SENCos
- Any other relevant secondary school professionals.

This should happen early on in the Summer Term. We recommend that the young person should have *between 3-5* visits to or contacts with the new setting and at least one visit from secondary school professionals to meet the young person in their primary setting (or at home, if this is felt to be appropriate) and meet adults working with the young person. A transition plan template is available on page 3 of this document.

SECONDARY SCHOOL INFORMATION BOOK

This can be produced by the secondary school. The young person can begin to look through their transition book in the second half of the summer term or whenever it is felt to be appropriate. The transition book can include:

- Pictures and details about the new secondary setting including communal areas (playground, lunch hall, toilets etc...).
- Information about daily routines (e.g. timetable with relevant times, school rules)
- Information and pictures of relevant teachers, other children in their class and allocated *buddies/identified known peers/opportunities for developing friendships* (if possible).

Student Feedback

Some students fed back on their Transition into Year 7.

Here is what they found most helpful;

- Visit to the school where I also took pictures
- They did a booklet/ Made a booklet
- I bought books that would help me for secondary school
- Visiting my secondary school with my 1:1 teaching assistant
- They gave me directions to where I was supposed to go
- I came to visit my teachers
- They gave us a book that told us things that told us what to look out for in secondary school
- Reading all the expectations
- Meeting my form tutor in July
- The first three days were just us, the year 7s

Here is what they would have liked more support with:

- If they provided a lesson whereas they would tell us what I would expect in high school
- Change lessons so that they look more different, like secondary school