

Moving from P7 to Year 8 – tips for parents

Websites to access with your child

[BBC Bitesize](#) - a series of cool animations helping children see what starting secondary school is really like.

[Supporting moving to Secondary School](#)

[Moving Up Booklet – activities to do with your family.](#)

Websites to support parents through Transfer to Post-Primary School

[Middletown Centre for Autism: Starting a new school](#)

[National Autistic Society transition tips](#)

[ParentingNI: Parents' Guide to school transitions](#)

[Rough Guide to Social Media Use for Teens with Autism](#)



Information for parents

Your child's transition from primary to secondary school can be an anxious time for the family. Sometimes as a parent it can be difficult to know what or how much to be involved in the transition process. Here are some ideas of things that you can do to make your child's transition more successful.

**Autism Advisory and
Intervention Service (AAIS)**

- **Despite your concerns, try to remain positive and upbeat about the transition in front of your child. It is important that they do not pick up on any of your worries about the move.**
- **Work through transition materials during the summer holiday. Encourage your child to fill in a countdown calendar to starting their new school (see Countdown Calendar and Pupil Passport below).**
- **Practise skills such as using the bus, planning the route to school, rehearsing for cafeteria systems and organising bags and equipment e.g.**
 - **Bus travel: Discuss and practise with your child where they wait to get the bus? What to do if the bus does not come? Where to get off the bus? Where to sit if bus noisy or quite full? What to do if other pupils are misbehaving? What to do if they miss their stop coming home etc.?**
 - **Support making friends by exploring clubs and activities that they may share with new peers or those that may be held within the school site.**
 - **Practise with the uniform – make sure it is comfortable – wear in new shoes, take out labels, wash clothes until soft, practise new skills e.g. tying a tie**
 - **Prepare for what if scenarios (e.g. what if you forget dinner money, or what if you forget to do a homework etc.) – possibly record the plan visually**
- **Organise an easy to use wallet and/or key ring for dinner money and locker key**
- **Keep a copy of the timetable at home**
- **Help your child to organise homework and equipment for each day. Store materials for different subjects in clear plastic wallets or similar. Colour code wallets according to subject as per timetable. Maybe keep 2 sets of stationery – 1 at home and 1 at school**



My Countdown Calendar to starting my new school



July 2021

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

August 2021

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				



Example

Student passport: Joe Black

Photo or
drawing

My date of birth is: 3rd June. I am in Year 8

My Form Teacher is: Mr Trainor

I would like you to know that I have autism. It affects me in 4 ways

Talking and Listening:	Interacting with others:
I love to talk about my interests. However, I find it hard to listen and understand a lot of what you say and mean. I find it really hard to plan my thoughts to compose a piece of writing. I may not always remember to ask for help with things.	I find it hard to make new friends because I can feel shy and say the wrong things. One boy I get on with is Paul from my primary school.
Thinking; learning and behaving	Sensory stimulation and sensations
I like to know what will be happening before I do it. I don't like when things change without warning. It makes me very anxious. I also find it hard keeping all	Loud noises, strong smells, crowded corridors make me feel sick inside. Also I tend to find it hard in PE to catch a ball or run as fast as others. When I get worried I tend to need to need to go to the toilet.

My strengths and interests	I don't like
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * love computers, especially Minecraft * good at maths * love doing 1000 piece jigsaws * my cat Sooty * honesty * swimming 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * writing – find it hard to think and write. * writing and drawing makes my wrist sore * doing PE – playing team games * smells * crowded places * being touched * loud noises * scary films like Harry Potter

Things I find difficult
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * listening to and following instructions * creative writing * understanding when someone is just joking * working in groups * getting changed for PE quickly * non-uniform days

How to help me
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * clearly tell me what I need to do First / Then / Finally * write down what I have to do in short steps * ask me to tell you what I have to do to make sure I have got it right * write down my homework for me * if I get upset or worried allow me to use my 'time out' card to go to Mrs Green's room (SENCO) * allow me to leave class 2 mins before the bell goes to get to my next class to miss crowds * I like to be please my teachers and do what is right

Pupil passport

Photo or
drawing

My birthday is:

My Form Teacher is:

I would like you to know that:

Talking and Listening:	Interacting with others:
Thinking; learning and behaving	Sensory stimulation and sensations

My strengths and interests	I don't like
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • • • • • • • • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • • • • • • • •

Things I find difficult at school
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • • •

How to help me
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • • • • •