

Secondary transfers checklist for parents

Children start secondary school in year 7 (September after their 11th birthday). The national deadline for secondary applications is 31st October of year 6, so start looking at schools when your child is in year 5.

When considering your options, involve your child.

For information regarding the school, check the school website. You can also check out OFSTED reports and look at the North East Lincolnshire Local Offer website:

<https://www.nelincs.gov.uk/children-and-families/send-and-local-offer/>

Be aware!

Parents have the right to express a preference for a school and to give reasons for their preference; this is not the same as having a right to choose a school. If the school is over-subscribed there will be rules about who has a priority for a place. You may be given your school of preference but you may not.

Some things to consider

- Attend secondary school open events. You may also wish to arrange a follow up visit.
- Does your Son/Daughter have friends going to the same school?
- How you are received on arrival by staff and pupils
- Are arrangements made to show you around the school?
- Are you able to visit all areas which were important to you?
- Are all your questions answered?
- Did they ask about your child and their specific needs?
- Will the school provide the education and support your child needs? Do they have experience of helping children like yours?
- Does the school have good pastoral care?
- Size of school and size of teaching groups
- Is the school close to home or easy to get to by public transport?

- Do they have staff that are qualified in or have experience of children with your son's/daughter's additional needs?
- What other services and activities do the school offer? Do they have lunchtime or afterschool clubs?
- How do the school monitor progress?
- How often does the school send home reports / communicate with parents?
- Are parents encouraged to work in partnership with the school?
- Check the school website for policies on special educational needs, behaviour and bullying.
- How much homework is given out and is there a homework club?
- Are additional transition days offered?
- Who would I contact if there was a problem?
- What does the school do when pupils are unhappy or misbehave / separate units?
- What is the post 16 provision like?
- Safety Features – leave premises?

Following your visits, make a note of the important points so you can compare schools afterwards. It may be useful to do this on a chart.

Remember

You are looking for a school for your own particular child. They will have their own individual needs and strengths. Think about what will be important to your child and find out what matters most to them about school life.

**If you would like to talk about anything to do with this leaflet, please
contact us on
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