

# Post Primary Transitioning



## **Transitioning to Post Primary school – Information for Parents**

Starting post primary school is an exciting time, but it can also be challenging, especially for young people with special educational needs. One way to help the start be successful is early planning. The first step is to choose a school. Most parents will choose a local mainstream school. In a mainstream post primary school, students with learning needs are supported by subject teachers and a special educational teacher.

Students have a different teacher for up to ten subjects, and students with significant care needs may have the support of a special needs assistant. If a student has more complex special educational needs, you may want to consider a special class or a special school. Enrolments for these are supported by the relevant diagnosis and professional recommendations. They will have smaller class sizes and have the support of a teacher and SNA. Special classes are for students with very complex learning needs who need the class for the majority of the day. They also give students the opportunity to attend mainstream classes based on their abilities.

Exploring the curriculum options, the subjects offered, and the extracurricular activities helps give a sense of the school. Visiting them for open days and parent evenings or doing website walkthroughs from home is also a great way to learn more. Once you've reached a decision on a school, the next step is to complete enrolment applications. All schools should publish their enrolment policies and admission notices. These will include the deadlines and number of places being offered.



Most deadlines are the autumn of 6th class. Once you and your child except a school place. The next step is to share information. Sharing information such as your child's strengths and needs will help the school get ready for the student. The more informed the school, the better prepared they are to support your child.

You should meet with the school and work with them to develop a transition plan or ask others to share information on your behalf. Your child's primary school teacher and other professionals may be consulted with your permission. The post primary school will use this information to decide on the most appropriate supports and strategies for a successful transition. Post primary school is the start of a new adventure. School staff will be there throughout your child's journey.

For advice and information, contact your local special educational needs organiser, visiting teachers for students who are deaf or hard of hearing, or visiting teachers for students who are blind or visually impaired, and other professionals.

## Preparing your Child for Post Primary School

Congratulations. Your child has finished primary school. Take a moment to recognise what you and your child have achieved. It's time to prepare your child for post primary school. This offers new and exciting opportunities. It's also a time of change.

Change can bring a range of feelings for you and your child. It is normal to feel excited, nervous, wary or curious. Your child may communicate in different ways. Listen and reassure. Talk to your child about their thoughts and feelings.

Let them know it's okay to feel these things. Let your child know as soon as they receive their school place. To get to know the new school, you and your child can visit the school, practice the journey to and from school, and look at the school website. They may also learn more about their new school from friends or older siblings. Moving to post primary will involve changes in your child's daily routine.

These changes will take time and practicing these changes in the weeks before school starts can really help. For some students a new school uniform might take some time to get used to. Your child will have new teachers. Find out more about their curriculum on the school website, in their information booklet, or at the school open night. Speak with the relevant staff.



A new curriculum means that your child will have different books. Many students will have more books and materials than before. You and your child can practice morning and evening routines such as packing their school bag, PE gear, and organising materials the night before. Being organised can help you feel calm and ready for the day.

Ensure your child knows that even though their day and classes may be longer, there will be lots of breaks throughout the school day. Let them know it takes time to get used to new changes in routines. Let your child know that asking for help is a good thing. Find out who you and your child can go to in their new school to ask for help. The NCSE is here to assist you with any questions you may have.

Please feel free to contact your local special educational needs organisers.

For more information and for useful contacts, go to this website: <https://ncse.ie/>





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