

Transition to Secondary School – Parent Checklist (SEN Support)

1. Early Preparation (early Year 6)

Review your child's current SEN Support provision and how the Assess–Plan–Do–Review cycle is working.

Ask the primary school if your child has been identified as having Special Educational Needs.

Start discussing secondary options by reading key school documents such as the prospectus, SEN Information Report, SEN policy, Ofsted report, and behaviour/bullying policies.

2. Before Choosing a School

Arrange to meet the secondary SENCO to ask how SEN Support is delivered.

Visit potential schools at different times of day to understand routines, noise levels, and environment.

Ask about transition programmes, interventions, pastoral support, and clubs for pupils who struggle socially.

3. Planning the Transition (Primary → Secondary)

Ensure both SENCOs communicate and share relevant pupil information.

Confirm your child will be included in any enhanced transition arrangements such as extra visits or meeting key staff.

Check that the primary school completes transition documents such as thinking-ahead forms or pupil passports.

4. Practical and Emotional Preparation

Practise journeys to school to build confidence.

Use visual supports such as photos, maps, or example timetables.

Discuss routines including planners, classroom movement, lunch routines, and where to go if overwhelmed.

Ask if the secondary school offers quiet spaces or lunchtime clubs for anxious pupils.

5. Checking SEN Support in Secondary

Confirm what support will be in place from day one, including differentiated teaching, interventions, TA support, and wellbeing provision.

Ask how consistency is ensured across multiple teachers and departments.

Request information on how progress will be reviewed in the Assess–Plan–Do–Review cycle.

6. Legal and Policy Responsibilities

Familiarise yourself with school duties under the Children and Families Act 2014 and the Equality Act 2010.

Ask who the link governor for SEND is and how the school monitors SEN provision.

7. After Your Child Starts Secondary School

Attend early review meetings in the first half-term.

Ask how your child is settling academically, socially, and emotionally.

Request updates on interventions and progress.

Keep regular communication with the SENCO and pastoral team.

Request an early review of SEN Support if concerns arise.