

What does being ready for secondary school mean?

- Being able to organise what you will need for the day ahead
- Being able to get to and from school independently
- Organising your time so that you can complete homework
- Knowing how to speak up and ask for help when you need it
- Understanding the importance of listening to others and waiting to speak
- Feeling confident to share your ideas in front of other people
- Getting ready for work quickly on entering a classroom
- Being able to talk to new people of your own age
- Finding your way to and from different areas with a building.

The Importance of School Attendance

Going to school is important, if a child is not at school, they cannot learn the lessons being taught. The pupils with the highest attainment (exam results) at the end of secondary school have higher rates of attendance compared to those with the lowest attainment. Good attendance is also good preparation for working life, where employees can expect to be challenged over high absence rates.

Making sure that you support your child to feel positive about the move to secondary will help to secure good attendance. Encouraging them to ask for help and to talk to you and to their teachers early on will make a real difference to their time in secondary school. It is a time of huge change for them and for you. Hopefully the suggestions here will help to make their first steps on that journey successful.



For further help and ideas you could look at:

Top ten tips for starting secondary school

www.twinkl.co.uk/blog/top-ten-tips-for-starting-secondary-school

Family Lives

www.familylives.org.uk/advice/secondary/learning-school/starting-secondary-school
#cr38850

The school run

www.theschoolrun.com/how-survive-starting-secondary-school

Place2be

www.place2be.org.uk/our-services/parents-and-carers/getting-ready-to-start-secondary-or-high-school/

Educate magazine

www.educatemagazine.com/ten-tips-for-new-year-seven-students

The Inclusion Service

Leicestershire County Council

Moving up from primary to secondary school



Things for Year 6 pupils to try

Walk the school route with friends and on your own to get used to the time that it takes.

Practise the bus journey to school, how long does it take to reach the stop? How far is it from school? Do you need a pass or money? If you are using a service bus, find out which stop to ask for.

If the secondary school are running any clubs or activities over the summer holidays, get signed up!

Make a mock timetable and practise bag packing - can you find the things that you need for the next day and get them packed?

Meal prepping - make some sandwiches in an evening and get them packed up and ready for the next day.

If you are going to be having hot dinners, have a look at the menus - do you know roughly how much you will be spending each day?

Wake up call! Practise those early starts, especially towards the end of the summer holidays, try to establish a sleep pattern that fits with school.

Plan out some conversation openers - starting conversations with people who are not yet your friends.

Advice to parents and carers

Make sure you have positive conversations about secondary school. Children and young people can latch onto one comment (even said as a joke) and build worries around it.

Have an idea of what to do if things do not go to plan e.g if they miss their bus, lose their money or forget PE kit or lunch. Many children may be carrying a house key for the first time too - what happens if they cannot find it?

Talk about how to avoid detentions (many children worry about this). Reassure your children that they won't need to worry if they follow the school rules, and if they need help with anything, they should ask, as the job of all staff in school is to support their pupils.

Work out routines before an after school - is there a time and place that homework should be completed? If there are lots of activities to fit in, it might be a good idea to dedicate slots of quiet time to get homework done.

Speak to others who have attended the school - where you know you will get a positive account!



Check out the school website and look at the policies on:

- Uniform
- Mobile phones
- Homework



Check your emails regularly for any updates from the secondary school towards the end of Year 6 and over the summer holidays

Take as many opportunities as you can to get your child inside the school building before the start of term. Make sure your child attends any induction events and activities on school site - getting lost is one of the many worries that Year 6 children have as their new school starting date approaches.

If your child has a phone, put the school's phone number in there in case of an emergency.

If your child has concerns, their primary school teacher may be able to help, or find a contact at their secondary school who can. If these concerns are over the summer holiday period, speak to / leave a message with the secondary school directly. Information on the best way to make contact should be on their websites.

Start moving your child towards greater independence at home - what are they responsible for? What do the family depend on them for? Do they understand the importance of doing things that are asked of them?