

# Parent Guide



@twinklparents

We're excited to share this activity with you. If you are interested in finding more engaging, fun and interesting activities for you and your children, then check out these links to different areas of the [Twinkl Parents](#) website.

games



crafts



puzzles



experiments



word searches



## What is this resource and how do I use it?

The transition from primary to secondary school is a significant step in your child's life. They may be filled with excitement about the prospect of going to a new school but inevitably there will be nerves along the way too. So what can parents and carers do to ensure the change is as smooth as possible? Read the tips in this resource for advice and support.

## What skills does this practise?

Comprehension

Discussion

Self-Awareness

Self-Esteem

## Further Activity Ideas and Suggestions

Twinkl has a range of resources to help ease the transition between primary and secondary school. The activities in this [Year 6 Transition Scenario Cards and Action Plan Activity Pack](#) can help open conversations about the move to secondary school. Alternatively, look at [this poster](#) for top tips and advice.

Parents Blog



Twinkl Kids' TV



Homework Help



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Parents Hub

# Transition to Secondary School:

## Top Tips for Parents and Carers

The transition from primary to secondary school is a significant step in your child's life. They may be filled with excitement about the prospect of going to a new school but inevitably there will be nerves along the way too. So what can parents and carers do to ensure the change is as smooth as possible? Read our ten top tips for advice and support.

1. Encourage them to be independent. In the last year of primary school, support your child to become more independent in their day-to-day lives. Encourage them to be responsible for their PE kit, books and homework so that they can be prepared when it comes to secondary school. Get them in the habit of having their school bag packed the night before. Create a homework or activity timetable together to help them plan ahead.
2. Practise. A new school often means a different journey to get there. Practise getting to school ahead of your child's start date, whether they are walking, getting the bus or travelling by car. Make sure your child has a pass or change if travelling by public transport and try to do a practice run at the relevant time of day. Make sure your child knows which entrance to go to if it is a large school site. Arrange to meet a friend on the first day so that they can walk in together.
3. Be tech ready. Find out what your child's new school rules are surrounding mobile phones. Be prepared for requests from your child to join social media sites (most have a minimum age requirement of 13). Now is a good time to reinforce rules about how to stay safe online, as well as rules surrounding personal safety and mobile phones. For example, remind them to look up when walking home and crossing roads and not be distracted by a mobile screen.
4. Listen to what they have to say. Talk to your child about how they are feeling about moving school. Reassure them that everyone is in the same boat and it is natural to feel a little nervous. Talk to them about your own experiences of moving to secondary school and explore any worries your child may have together. Encourage them to ask if they can't find their way around school or if they're unsure how to do something.
5. Encourage them to be organised. Make sure your child understands their timetable and encourage them to make a note of the books and the equipment they'll need to take in each day. Prior to starting school, get ahead with organisation by looking at the school website. For example, is there a layout of the school or information about how to get a locker or a prepaid swipe card at the canteen?

# Transition to Secondary School:

## Top Tips for Parents and Carers

6. Be positive. Focus on the good things that are about to happen. Talk to your child about what they are looking forward to in secondary school and discuss all the exciting opportunities that will come their way. What new subjects will they be studying? Will they be learning any new sports?
7. Encourage them to have confidence when it comes to making friends. If possible, arrange to meet up with other children over the summer holidays who are attending the same school. When your child starts their new school, are there any extra curricular activities they can join in where they can meet new friends? Reassure them that friendships can often take time to develop and not to panic if they haven't made friends immediately. It might be a good idea to make time to see old friends too.
8. Support learning at home. Create a 'homework station' where your child can sit down and concentrate on their homework. Make sure they have space for their books, access to a computer and, if possible, a printer. Encourage them to make a note of homework deadlines in a diary or calendar to help them organise their time.
9. Information and key dates. As a parent or carer, it's important to be organised too. Look on the school website and make a note of any key dates in your diary. If possible, become involved in your new school community in some way, whether it's helping out with PTA events or keeping in touch with other parents online. This will help you build a new network of support.
10. Prepare yourself. The transition to secondary school can be a big change for parents and carers too. Try to take every opportunity to familiarise yourself with your child's new school, such as attending open evenings and induction events. Let your child know that you are always there to support them but remember that you don't always have to have all the answers. The staff at your child's new school are there to help and support you too.

