



Transition from Primary School to Secondary School

The transition from Primary school to Secondary school is generally a fairly manageable period and one that parents often get more emotional about than their children. As parents, we can often feel a little helpless – our role is to be supportive, this role is now changing.

By the time a child reaches their final years in primary school, they are totally familiar with their school environment. But within the space of two short months, they revert to being the most junior again in a brand new environment. Here are some tips to help you and your child:

1. Changes in Routine

At Second level generally there is a subject change every forty minutes which often includes a change of teacher and classroom.

To help your child cope with this advise them to write down the name of each new teacher beside the name of the subject. While on the move advise your child to stay with at least one other person, there is safety and confidence in numbers.

Transforming Ireland. The NCIP 2006-2010 is funded by the Irish Government. The EOCP 2000-2006 is Funded by the Irish Government and part financed by the European Union Structural Funds under the National Development Plan

2. The Schoolbag

With the increase in subjects the timetable will be different. Part of this new routine will involve the organisation of the schoolbag before each day. A little help in the early days will ensure they have the right books, and the right homework on the right day!

3. Homework

One of the best skills you can help your child to learn is effective time management. Simply help your child to even out their homework pattern by encouraging them to develop a homework timetable. Help them to devise a method to spread out the workload over the 5 nights of the week.

4. Extra-curricular activities:

Taking part in after-school activities is a great way of getting to know more students in the school it will also assist in confidence building. Students get to mix with other students from other years and as a result, they settle into the school environment a lot quicker. Students should be encouraged, from both home and school, to try out new activities.

5. Take heart!

Finally, with all the ups and downs of the first few weeks, rest assured that by the time September comes round again the following year, your child will enter the establishment as if they've been there forever.

If you have any concerns about your child, the advice is to make contact with the school.

Source: The Essential Parents' Guide to the Secondary School Years by Brian Gilsonan, published by Primary ABC, www.primaryabc.ie