

## Hearing Impairment Team

### Top tips for Transition - for Parents

Top Tips	Challenges	How to reduce challenges
<b>Saying Goodbye to their current School</b>	Acknowledge that your child may be sad to leave their school. Think of ways they can say Goodbye to their classroom, staff, friends etc	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Social Stories</b> support children to understand change, providing reassurance and reducing anxiety. Information on writing social stories can be found here <a href="https://carolgraysocialstories.com/">https://carolgraysocialstories.com/</a></li> <li>• <b>Create your own social story</b> by using a free 30 day trial using Widgit Online_ <a href="https://www.widgit.com/products/widgit-online/index.htm">https://www.widgit.com/products/widgit-online/index.htm</a></li> <li>• <b>Goodbye Book</b> - take photographs of the school/staff and ask your child to write something under each photo so they can remember their school/staff</li> <li>• <b>Send Goodbye cards</b> to staff/ friends</li> </ul>
<b>Transition Visits</b>	These give your child the opportunity to see the school / college before September which builds confidence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ask for <b>extra transition visits</b> to the school / college and during the visit take photographs of the school / college to look at during the summer holidays, for example, entry gates, reception, SEN department etc.</li> <li>• <b>Virtual Tour</b> - If Transition visits are unavailable, ask the school / college if they have a Virtual Tour available</li> </ul>
<b>Research as much about the new school as you can</b>	Again, this builds confidence and can encourage your child to ask questions about school/college	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Utilise the Internet</b> - Look on the school website and read the school prospectus. Ask if the school has a Facebook Page, Twitter account or Instagram Page.</li> </ul>
<b>'Buddies'</b>	Hearing another pupil's perspective of the school / college can be really helpful and reassuring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Current students</b> - Ask school/college if there is a current student who they could 'buddy up' with. Some schools/colleges are allowing students to contact each other via email with any questions they may have.</li> </ul>
<b>Key Staff</b>	There are a lot of staff at secondary school, / college but it is important that you and your child know key staff members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Make a list</b> - write a list of the key people you and your child need to know and ask for a photograph of them, eg SENCO, Head of Year/Course Leader etc. Display this list somewhere in the house so it is visible</li> </ul>

<p><b>One Page Profile / Personal Passport</b></p>	<p>These are useful so that <b>all</b> new staff have an understanding of your child's hearing loss and individual needs</p>	<p>A <b>Personal Passport</b> is a summary document you create with your child.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Your Advisory Hearing Teacher can provide you with some themed templates reflecting your child's interests, or go to the ndcs or sheffkids websites:</li> <li><a href="https://www.ndcs.org.uk/documents-and-resources/personal-passport-primary-years/">https://www.ndcs.org.uk/documents-and-resources/personal-passport-primary-years/</a></li> <li><a href="https://www.ndcs.org.uk/documents-and-resources/personal-passport-secondary-years/">https://www.ndcs.org.uk/documents-and-resources/personal-passport-secondary-years/</a></li> <li><a href="http://www.sheffkids.co.uk/adultssite/pages/onepageprofilestemplates.html?LMCL=csDGky">http://www.sheffkids.co.uk/adultssite/pages/onepageprofilestemplates.html?LMCL=csDGky</a></li> <li>Remember to recognise strengths and interests, including special interests. As well as your child, you can include key people a staff from the current school</li> </ul>
<p><b>Photo Transition Booklets</b></p>	<p>Some children will find a Photo Booklet helpful to share key information about themselves</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Photo Booklet</b> – your Advisory Hearing Teacher will support you to create a booklet. Please:</li> <li><b>take and send photos</b> of your child at home, their favourite toys or activities, the key people in their lives and their hearing technology</li> <li><b>make a list</b> of your child's likes and dislikes and of any medical needs</li> </ul>
<p><b>Timetables</b></p>	<p>The range of subjects and different classrooms and teachers could be a huge change for your child - practice looking at a timetable</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Example Timetable</b> - ask the school /college if they have an example of a timetable so you and your child can familiarise yourselves with what a typical day may look like. Help your child to identify which classroom the subject is in, which teacher takes that class and the variety of subjects they will have as well as when break and lunch times are.</li> <li>It's also useful to ask for a <b>Map</b> of the school/college and practise the route from one classroom to the next.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Quiet Space</b></p>	<p>The pace of the curriculum and listening effort cause tiredness and listening fatigue</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ask the setting about a quiet space your child can access for some non-listening dependent activities – or simply to take a listening break.</li> <li>Agree how and when your child can request/access this quiet space</li> </ul>
<p><b>Technology</b></p>	<p>Children will need to take more responsibility for their hearing aids/cochlear implants in secondary school/college</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Batteries</b> – make sure you provide spare batteries to the school / college and ask them to make sure your child knows where these are kept and how to access them</li> <li><b>Charging</b> – support your child to charge their own processors and/or radio transmitters independently every day</li> <li><b>Hearing Aid / Processor care</b> – coach your child to carry out daily visual equipment checks and cleaning.</li> </ul>

<b>Summer holiday preparations</b>	Try not to leave things to the last minute, use the time during the 6 week holidays to prepare and practise	<b>What is important</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Practise the route to school/college. Give your child opportunities to plan their route themselves</li><li>• Talk positively about the new setting</li><li>• Allow your child to practise wearing the new school uniform, if appropriate</li><li>• Practise packing their bag with the relevant books/materials</li><li>• Practice using a timetable at home to record and check what is happening week by week</li><li>• Display visuals in your home e.g timetable, countdown calendar to school etc</li></ul>
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