

How we support our pupils at times of transition

We recognise that transitions can be a particularly difficult and potentially stressful time for a child with SEND and take steps to ensure that any transition is as smooth as possible. A transition programme is devised annually with our main feeder school; Woodfield Infant school, and for pupils moving on from St George's to their chosen secondary school.

From Woodfield Infant School to St George's Junior School:

During the summer term, the SENDCO's and learning mentor's meet from each school to discuss those individuals that will need more support during the transition between year 2 and year 3. Staff are invited to observe individuals in a range of situations in order to gain a full understanding of their specific needs.

Extensive transition arrangements will be in place for all children - working with year 3 children on projects, through music, taster days, assemblies etc. Opportunity for Children on SEN Support to come to St George's more often with their TA can be arranged, so they start to build strong relationships with the staff at St George's. During these visits, children will familiarise themselves with the setting and become more comfortable with the school and staff. Some children will benefit from making a transition booklet, containing information and photographs about the people, routines and the geography of St George's. This can then be referred to during the school holidays.

From St George's Junior School to Secondary School:

As well as the scheduled open days and transition days at all secondary schools, our learning mentor leads an extensive transition support programme for children on SEN support including small group work and further visits to their secondary setting. There is also a further transition programme that is led by CAMHS (Child and Adolescent Mental Health) if needed, which takes place at a number of secondary schools.

Our transition programme involves a number of workshops covering:

- Worries about moving up
- Differences and similarities between key stage 2 and key stage 3
- Practical activities focusing on timetables, secondary school planners, organisational skills, friendships/communicating with new people
- Who to ask and how to ask for help
- Opportunities to look at scenarios and discuss possible outcomes for situations that may crop up in key stage 3
- Supported visits to secondary schools for some children, to practice the walk or cycle ride to school

If your child is moving to another school:

We will contact the secondary school SENDCO and ensure they are fully aware of any special arrangements or support that needs to be made for your child. All records are passed on as soon as possible.

When moving classes in school:

Information will be passed on to the new class teacher in a handover meeting during the summer term. During this meeting, all Pupil Centred Plans will be shared with the new teacher.

Our learning mentor meets with all pupils whom the teacher feels need additional support with transition arrangements. This type of intervention ensures all pupils feel safe, secure and are supported during this time of change.

New children coming to St George's:

- Friendship buddies from within their new class
- To be introduced to and have access to our Learning Mentor can help facilitating friendships through lunchtime club if they need it