

TRANSFERRING TO SECONDARY SCHOOL WITH SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS (SEN)

Open evenings – June-September

Some matters that might be helpful to consider/ask the SENCo/teachers/pupil guides at open evenings

- Prior to visit, discuss with your child any questions they might have and put them forward to the school representatives.
- Where can my child go if they are struggling/anxious?
- What support will be given if my child has a meltdown?
- What happens at breaks and lunch times?
- How are children that need support with reading/spelling/maths/homework supported?
- What is in place to support children that need support with exams and subject assessments?
- Does the school access support from any specialist services?
- Does the school have any on site counselling or therapeutic services
- What strategies does the school use to support children with SEN
- What is the schools standard/universal offer
- Does the school have experience with children with similar needs to...

Some matters to be considering at the open evenings

- Consider how the school will meet any accessibility needs
- Discuss the school's strategy on transition between primary and secondary
- Seek schools view on parental involvement at secondary school
- Schools hold a transition day in July, discuss impact and support for your child for this day

General application phase advice – September-October

- Apply between 1 September – 31 October
- Share information on needs on the application form, so that schools are aware well ahead of time. Information is confidential and cannot be used to decide on the outcome of your application.
- Once you have the offer in March, the school will, over the course of a few months discuss transition with the primary school. You can reach out to the allocated school to discuss the transition, your child's needs, and support that the school can offer.
- Keep an open dialogue with your child on schools and try not to focus on one school being the 'only school' to try keep a positive outlook as no school can be guaranteed during the process.
- Work with the school to prepare your child for the transition day in July, some tips:-
 - o Ask the school for a map of the school so that you can prepare your child in familiarising where everything is
 - o Ask the school if there is a 'buddy' system in place, if not ask how you child will be supported
 - o Ask the school for details of the SENCo, Inclusion Lead, Mental Health Lead or named support person and prepare your child on who to reach out to if they are struggling.
 - o Consider travel, and how your child will get to school and discuss journey planning with your child.
 - o Discuss a possible timetable prior to starting with the school so that your child can be more prepared.

Helpful links

[Southend School Admissions – Information, Booklets and Application](#)

[Southend's Special Educational Needs and Disability \(SEND\) Local Offer](#)

[Special Education Needs \(SEN\) Southend](#)

[Southend School Nursing Service](#)

[DfE guidance supporting pupils with medical needs](#)

[Southend's Interim Tuition Service](#)

[SEND Guidance for Schools](#)

[School Attendance](#)