

Ideas for supporting remote transitions

Establishing an initial connection

Write a welcome letter to the pupil and their family saying how much you're looking forward to them joining your school

Plan remote meetings with the pupil's primary school teacher and SENCO

Find out what the pupil and their family might need to help their transition

Send a welcome postcard from their new Form Tutor



Supporting emotional wellbeing

Consider the impact of school closure's on the pupil's emotional wellbeing

Have they experienced feelings of anxiety, grief, worry and loss

Prepare for this as part of their transition curriculum, for example, providing a safe space for them to talk about their feelings or providing support pathways.



Building positive connections

Establish regular contact from Form Tutor
Consider a regular email, letter, phone call or even informal video chat to get to know them

Allocate a key member of staff from your Inclusion/SEN Department who will be their main point of contact

Create a Transition Project

Create an area of the school website that has fun activities, key information, who's who gallery, tours of the school etc

Virtual Transition Meetings

Choose a way that is comfortable for the pupil and their family

Include key professionals in the meeting (e.g.: outside agencies, Form Tutor, Primary SENCO, Head of Year, key support staff etc)

Ensure you make time to capture the views of the pupil and their family

Consider arranging separate virtual meetings with the new teachers to share information

Virtual coffee morning for parents/carers where you can share key information



Transition Passports

A Transition Passport is a helpful way of capturing pupil voice and learning more about the young person.

There are four different versions available to download from our Barnet SENCO Zone:

https://www.barnetlocaloffer.org.uk/senco_zone/

You can also find other examples from Nasen and other SEND websites



Virtual School Tours

Create an introductory/welcome video to the school

Share photos of key areas of school (e.g.: classroom, main school hall, playground, canteen, library, etc)

If possible, take a video tour of the school to share

Share example timetables, lunch menus, homework planners and school expectations

Make a quiz or fact finding task, challenge or competition

Summer Holidays – Maintaining a Connection

Arrange to send postcards over the holidays / create a summer project / continue to share messages & activities on the school website



Please note that any of the ideas should be used in line with your own school policy and procedures, and in line with the latest Government guidance.

Useful Links and Resources

Barnet SENCO Zone - https://www.barnetlocaloffer.org.uk/senco_zone

Barnet Educational Psychology Team Courses - These are free of charge. Check the SENCO Zone for more information.

Supporting transition for pupils with SEND during COVID-19 by Natalie Packer

<https://my.optimus-education.com/supporting-transition-pupils-send-during-covid-19>

Schudio TV Online Courses

[The Big Transitions for Autistic & SEND pupils after Lockdown](https://www.schudio.tv/courses/the-big-transitions-for-autistic-and-send-pupils-after-lockdown)

<https://www.schudio.tv/courses/the-big-transitions-for-autistic-and-send-pupils-after-lockdown>

This course is completely free and is less than an hour. It is suitable for teaching staff, school leaders and parents/carers.

Moving on: a guide for pupils with SEN moving on to secondary school

A free downloadable resource with some helpful tips and activities for pupils with SEN.

<https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/learning-disabilities/publications/moving-on-tips-for-pupils-with-special-educational-needs>

Young Minds – Transition Tips for Pupils with SEND

Some helpful suggestions of how to support pupils with SEND during transition.

<https://youngminds.org.uk/resources/school-resources/transition-tips-for-pupils-with-send/>

Created by Barnet Inclusion Advisory Team with Barnet Secondary SENCOs as part of the Challenge Workshops