



**Is your child in
YEAR 6
in SEPTEMBER?**

**Parent's Guide to making the
move from Year 6 to Year 7**

Common fears and why you don't need to worry

Commonly known as transition, the move from one year group to the next can be particularly challenging for students moving up to secondary school.

A recent study of parents, teachers and students from over ten secondary schools and has found the biggest concerns for parents are:

- Bullying
- Safety
- The amount of homework
- Adjusting to having lots of teachers
- Making new friends

And the biggest concerns for their children were:

- Getting lost
- Losing old friends
- Homework discipline and detentions
- Being bullied



BUT

They found young peoples' concerns about getting lost and being bullied reduce very quickly, within the first term at secondary school. Their worries about losing old friends, homework and about discipline and detentions also reduced by the end of Year 7.

In the same way that children's concerns reduced once they had started at secondary school, so did parents' concerns. At the end of their child's first year at secondary school, 8 out of 10 parents thought that they had settled in well in all of these areas:

- Academically
- Socially, with teachers
- Socially, with peers

✓ **Even children who did not go to their family's preferred secondary school were just as settled at the end of Year 7 as those that did.**

- To the new routine
- Academically
- Socially, with teachers
- Socially, with peers

Perhaps unsurprisingly, parents who already have a child move to secondary school were less concerned about their current child making the move. Although it can be a stressful time, once parents know what the routine at secondary school is like, they are likely to be less worried.

How to help your Child before the move

✓ Know all your options:

Your child has the opportunity to apply to any of the schools across the city, perhaps more than you did when you went to school.

Remember:

- You are free to look into sending your child to any of the Norwich city schools.
- Visit as many schools as you can with your child during the following months whilst they have open days and open evenings for you to look round. They are usually listed on their website.
- Not all schools work to a catchment area.
- Living in a catchment area does not mean you will get a place at that school. This is only one way schools can allocate places, especially if they are oversubscribed.
- Your likelihood to get in your preferred school changes yearly with each new year group.
- Not all city secondary schools give priority to attending traditional feeder schools.
- When you apply for your child's secondary school place, this is called a preference and does not mean you will get a place at that school. It is a starting point for the admissions team who then check it against the school admissions criterion.
- Be open to the possibility you may not get your first or any of your preferences of school and let your child be aware too. This may save a lot of stress later if you are unsuccessful in your options.
- Around 90% of children got the school they preferred for admission 2019/20

✓ How your school place is allocated:

The criteria admissions uses to allocate a school place is not only based on your preference and where you live. It is important you and your child understand that you may not get a place at your first preferred school. This is especially important when looking at schools which are commonly oversubscribed. Each school has their own set of criteria for deciding on who to admit once they are full.

Some examples include:

- Siblings already in the school
- Looked after children or those in care
- Children who hold Education & Health Care Plans
- Children with a specific musical or other special ability sought by that school.

Each school has a different list, please check the school admission policy online for the school that you are applying to. <http://csapps.norfolk.gov.uk/schoolfinder/default.asp>

How to help your child after the move

✓ Supporting your Child

More than half of parents feel that their child would need help with homework and remembering books and equipment. Your child may also worry about homework and aspects of the school routine for a bit longer than other things. Here are some things you could try if you think this applies to your child:

- One way to help your child with secondary school homework is by checking their homework diary/planner.
- Encourage your child to make sure that they understand the instructions for the homework task before they leave the lesson, and to start their homework early so that they can get help if they have any problems.
- Keep a school timetable and a list of what equipment is needed for each day somewhere visible at home e.g. on the fridge. It could help you and your child settle in to the new routine!
- Talking to your child about what you are both worried about is likely to help both of you

We hope you have found this information useful. Please speak to the schools about any other concerns you have specific to your child.

For more information on transport, catchments etc. please see the County Council Admissions website <https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/education-and-learning/schools/school-admissions/transfer-to-secondary-school>

The study this information is taken from is the School Transition & Adjustment Research Study (STARS) carried out by a team from University College London. It surveyed two thousand young people, their parents and their teachers, during the move to ten secondary schools from around South-East England. This project was funded by the Nuffield Foundation. For their detailed findings please visit: www.ucl.ac.uk/stars

