

# Transition from primary to secondary school

*“Moving from a primary school to a secondary school is a difficult stage for any pupil. Particular care needs to be put in to support pupils like young carers who have extra needs to ensure that pastoral support is continued and not lost.”*

## Who is this chapter for?

- School lead or staff interested in becoming/establishing a school lead within your school
- Year head
- Transition lead
- Careers’ services
- Young carers’ services
- “Feeder” primary schools

## This chapter will support schools to:

- build strong links with school leads from schools that feed into each other in order to improve information sharing and tracking of young carers at key transition stages.
- identify young carers as soon as possible when they begin secondary school.
- ensure all pupils, including late starters, are aware of who their school lead is, what support is available and how to access it.
- support young carers and their families with a coordinated approach by a range of agencies before and during a transition period.

## Synopsis

As with all pupils, transition from one educational stage to another requires particular care. This is even more vital with young carers as there are particular issues associated with being a young carer that can make a crucial difference if acknowledged and addressed.

It is good practice to build strong links and communication between staff leading on young carers from establishments feeding into each other in order to provide support during the transition process. Indeed, further value is added with multi-agency work, for example with additional support from a young carers’ service.



## Good practice for pupils in transition from primary to secondary school

Providing opportunities for families to inform the secondary school that a pupil has caring responsibilities before they start is valuable so that support can commence from the outset. Primary schools may also be in a position to encourage the pupil and their family to advise the new school of their family situation or to set up a meeting with the secondary school's carers lead.

Hertfordshire Young Carers Project has developed a transfer plan to support young carers as they move from primary to secondary schools and suggest that primary schools should:

- make available to the secondary school and the parent(s)/guardian(s) an outline of the support currently being received by the pupil, such as that by a family worker, school nurse or other agency, as well as any additional support offered by the primary school.
- organise an additional visit to the secondary school with parent(s)/guardian(s) to discuss family circumstances and give the young carer the opportunity to explain what it is like for them. (The young carer could have this information written down; some young carers find it difficult to talk about their caring role).
- introduce the young carer to the link worker or named person in the secondary school.

The secondary school also has a role to play during this transition and it is useful if:

- the school has a relevant member of staff to liaise with feeder primary schools and ascertain whether there are young carers in year six transferring to secondary school.
- the head of year seven is aware of the caring circumstances and the support the young carer has received during their time at primary school.
- the head of year seven or form tutor meets with the young carer while they are still at primary school to explain how they support young carers.
- the head of year seven or the form tutor makes contact with the parent(s)/guardian(s) to explain the support that is available prior to the young carer joining the secondary school in September.
- a relevant member of staff offers a home visit where this is appropriate, as in some cases parents are unable to attend open evenings and parents evenings.

Hertfordshire Young Carers Project's full report can be found at [www.koolcarers.org.uk/resources.htm](http://www.koolcarers.org.uk/resources.htm)

## Other chapters to help you understand this topic

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