

## Transition to school

### What parents and preschool's might want to know and ask you when they are preparing children for transition

*In addition to the positive transition work that PVI settings and schools already have in place, this is a list (but not exhaustive) of questions for schools to reflect upon which parents or preschool/settings may ask when considering how best to support the unique child with their transition to school.*

***Please note parent and practitioners have been reminded that this is not an exhaustive list or a comprehensive list where all questions are asked. Please consider which questions are most pertinent to your child/ parents and which they will find most useful to know about.***

#### School routine and general questions

- If my child struggles with anything at school – what support will there be? How will I know? How will you tell me how to help and when?
- What starting school transition arrangements do you make?
- How many different school transition /routines are there every day? Across the week? Who helps my child to do these things initially? What happens if they can't do it?
- How does the school support children's different learning styles? E.g. practically, visually, through play, props, indoors, outdoors?
- Is there a nurture group if my child needs extra help to settle or behavioural difficulties?
- Can I visit the school when it isn't an open day?
- Can my child access all of the outdoor equipment all of the time? All of the year round?
- How is my child's development measured? And how frequently do you do this? How often do you let me know how my child is progressing?
- How do you follow children's interests in school?
- Can my child bring toys to school?
- Is there homework? What happens if we don't complete homework?
- What is the adult ratio in class and outside?
- How will the school decide which class my child will go into? Will the first class they go into change the following year?
- Is there after school club? Holiday provision club? How do they get there? Will there be a familiar adult at the club? How much supervision will there be?
- Is there a nurse on site? What happens if there is an accident? What is the school's procedure?
- Does the school have links with other schools?
- What happens if we are late to school?

#### SEND, inclusion and additional support questions

- How accessible is all of the school for my child? E.g. steps, ramps, distance between dinner hall and playground?

- How experienced are your staff in dealing with any special education needs? Disabilities? Or Makaton? PECS? Physical handling?
- Do therapists regularly visit the school?
- Are there any staff trained to support language needs?
- Does the school access outreach support from other provisions i.e. Special schools, Primary Behaviour Service, TOP?

### **Communication/Information sharing with school**

- How do you communicate with parents as a school? How do you communicate with me as my child's class teacher? Do you use a range of forms of communication or just letters? e.g. Texting? Facebook? Email? Home-school book? What if I am a working parent? A separated parent? An illiterate parent?
- Who will my child's key person be? Who will I go to if there is a problem at home? Who will have a special relationship with me and my child and get to know me really well?
- How do you involve parents and carers in the planning of the curriculum?
- How will the school involve me in my child's learning?
- Does the school have a parent support group?
- How often are parent evenings?

### **Self help questions and lunchtime/play time questions**

- What happens if my child has a toileting accident or needs help?
- What do I need to bring for snack or lunchtime and how much food?
- Where will my child eat at lunchtime? Who looks after them? Will they know them? How do they get from classroom to the hall to the playground? What if they can't cut their food up? Or don't like their lunch?
- Does your school have a changing facility/wet room?
- Do you expect my child to be able to dress and undress independently when they start school?
- Do the children stop for playtime? Where do they play and who looks after them? Will they know the adult?
- Is there a healthy eating policy at school? what if my child will only eat certain foods?

### **Things to think about as you look around school**

- How do you help to make feel parents welcome to the school?
- How do you make the outdoor space appealing and look after it?