

Preparing Year 6 pupils with SLCN for Secondary School

This is a tough time for Year 6 children, their final year of primary school is not ending the way it should. At this time, schools would normally working to help prepare Year 6 for their transition to secondary school. Whether your child is returning to their primary school this half term, or not, as parents/carers, we know you will be wanting to help your child get ready to move on to their new school. Here are a few things that you could talk through with them now to make sure they are fully prepared.

The following is a list of helpful skills for Year 6 pupils with SLCN to have before moving on to secondary school:

- **To know the days of the week, months of the year, seasons, when key events take place:** This helps to secure time concepts and enables a clearer understanding of terminology used in school such as 'Autumn Term' and 'Easter holidays' etc. It helps pupils to be more independent with organisation as they will have a better understanding of 'when' things take place.
- **To be able to tell the time (digital and analogue):** This helps pupils to understand times shown on timetables and information about school events such as after school activities
- **To be confident to use a calendar:** Again, this helps embed a secure understanding of time and when things take place. It helps to give pupils a sense of how many days/weeks between lessons, when homework is due, school trips etc.



- **To understand and use timetables:** They will be expected to be independent at using a timetable to navigate through the day. Ensure that pupils understand the direction of the timetable, and what the letters and numbers represent. If possible, liaise with the secondary school that they are going to obtain an example timetable for that school. *A useful tip is to practice colour coding the timetable e.g. all English lessons in green, all science in yellow etc. This makes it more visual and much easier to quickly see the information.*

A color-coded school timetable. The timetable is organized into columns for different subjects: English, Maths, Science, History, Geography, and PE. Each subject is represented by a different color: English is green, Maths is yellow, Science is blue, History is red, Geography is purple, and PE is pink. The timetable shows the days of the week and the times for each lesson. The colors are used to group related lessons together, making it easier to see the pattern of subjects throughout the week.

- **List the new subjects that are likely to be covered at secondary school and explain abbreviations:** For some pupils, they may not have heard of subjects such as media studies or travel and tourism and may not fully understand what that subject will involve. Check that they understand abbreviations such as ICT.
- **Plan their route to school:** Will they walk, go by car or bus? Will they ride their bike? Where can they lock their bike up at school? Do they know where it is safe to cross a road or where to wait for the bus? Will it take longer than their journey to school does now? What time will they need to wake up each morning? Draw maps and show times on clocks to make it visual.



