Gorseybrigg Primary School and Nursery

Transition at Gorseybrigg

At Gorseybrigg, we recognise that successful transitions are vital to children's emotional wellbeing, confidence and academic success. We aim to make every transition as smooth and positive as possible through careful planning, close communication with families and collaboration with other settings.

Our aim is for every child to feel safe, confident and ready for the next stage of their educational journey.

Transition into Nursery

We offer open mornings twice a year where prospective parents and new starters are welcomed into school. These sessions provide an opportunity for families to meet staff and become familiar with the Foundation Stage environment.

Before starting Nursery:

- Our Nursery Teacher and Teaching Assistant visit children in their home environment, with parental permission.
- The visit provides an informal opportunity to get to know the child and their family.
- Children are invited to choose stickers for their peg, helping them feel a sense of belonging before they start school.
- Following the home visit, children and their carers are invited to attend a Stay and Play session in school.

Transition into Reception

Open mornings are held twice a year to welcome prospective parents and children into school and introduce them to the Foundation Stage team.

To support a smooth transition:

- The Reception teacher visits children in their current setting to speak with staff and observe them in a familiar environment.
- A welcome booklet is sent to all new families.
- Children and their carers are invited to attend a Stay and Play session in school.
- Information is shared between settings to ensure children's individual needs are understood and appropriately supported from the outset.
- Children who may find transition difficult will be offered extra transition visits with a parent or carer.

Transition Between Year Groups

Throughout the school year, children have many opportunities to become familiar with staff and pupils from other classes. This helps to build confidence and ease annual transitions.

These opportunities include:

- Staff-led lunchtime clubs.
- Pastoral groups and intervention sessions.
- Smile Club and Extended School Club.
- Buddy Reading partnerships between year groups.
- Half-termly Enrichment Days, where children work with different staff and peers.
- Joint Christmas performances and celebrations.
- Regular interaction with the year 1 and 2 staff into Reception through Forest School arrangements.

Transition from Reception to Year 1

We recognise that moving from the Early Years Foundation Stage into Key Stage 1 is a significant step for many children.

To support this transition:

- The Year 1 teacher is already familiar with the children through the ongoing school activities.
- During the Summer Term, Reception and Year 1 staff identify children who may require additional support with transition. These children are invited into the Year 1 classroom individually or in small groups for short transition sessions to increase confidence and familiarity.

Whole-School Transition Days

During the final week of the Summer Term:

- Reception and Year 1 children spend a half day and a full day in their new classroom.
- Children from Year 2 upwards spend four days with their new teacher and class.

A Meet the Teacher evening is also held during this week, providing parents and carers with the opportunity to:

- Learn about the forthcoming academic year.
- Meet the new class teacher.
- Discuss any questions or concerns.

Year 6 Transition to Secondary Education

We maintain strong links with Dronfield Henry Fanshawe School (DHFS) to support pupils moving to secondary education.

Transition opportunities include:

- A Year 6 Open Day in October.
- A Year 6 Disco during the Summer Term.
- Visits from DHFS staff to deliver taster lessons and answer pupils' questions.

To ensure continuity of support:

- The DHFS Transition Lead works closely with our Year 6 teacher and SENCO.
- Information and any concerns are shared effectively between schools through transition meetings.
- Some pupils may be identified as requiring an enhanced transition programme and may attend additional visits to the secondary school.

For pupils with an EHCP or significant additional needs:

- Transition meetings are held involving both schools' SENCOs, parents/carers and the Year 6 teacher.
- Individual transition arrangements are planned to meet the child's specific needs.

Other Secondary Schools

Where children transfer to schools other than DHFS, we work closely with the receiving school and support their transition procedures.

We encourage pupils to attend as many transition opportunities as possible and ensure all relevant information is shared to support a successful move.

Mid-Year Transfers

We understand that some children join or leave Gorseybrigg during the academic year.

For pupils joining the school mid-year:

- Parents and carers are offered a tour of the school.
- Children are given opportunities to visit their new classroom and meet key staff.
- Information is gathered from previous settings to ensure a smooth transition.
- Additional support is provided where required to help children settle quickly and confidently.
- A buddy will be allocated to the child to help with day to day routines and social times.

For pupils leaving during the school year:

- Relevant information is shared promptly with the receiving school.
- We work collaboratively with families and the new setting to ensure continuity in learning and support.