

Supporting Your Child's Transition from Year 6 to Year 7

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Aims



- What changes in secondary school
- What children often find challenging
- Confidence, independence and resilience
- Friendships and wellbeing
- SEND considerations
- Practical strategies

What Changes in Secondary School?



Bigger environments



Multiple teachers



Different classrooms



More independence



New friendship groups



Increased organisation demands

Biggest challenges are often routines, relationships and independence

Why Start Preparing Early?

Transition is a process, not an event. Some of the skills children need to develop in preparation for secondary school include:

- Independence
- Organisation
- Emotional resilience
- Friendship skills
- Problem-solving
- Confidence asking for help



Small opportunities throughout the year matter

What Helps Children Settle Well?

Friendships

Positive self-esteem

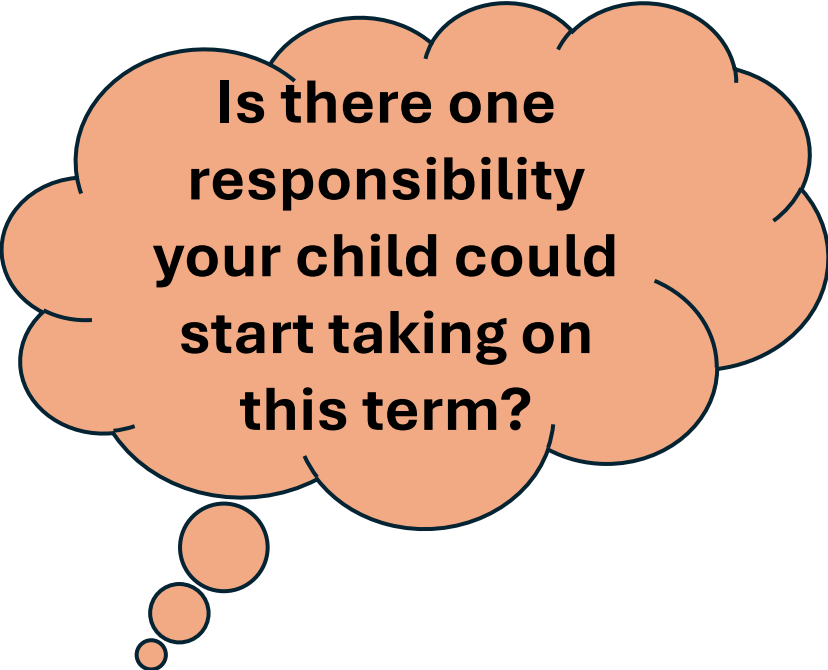
Interest in learning

Confidence with routines

Sense of belonging

Building Independence Now

- Remember equipment
- Follow timetables
- Manage homework
- Move around independently
- Solve small problems



**Is there one
responsibility
your child could
start taking on
this term?**

Independence develops through practice, not perfection

Supporting Emotional Readiness

Talk about:

Excitement

Worries

Questions

Hopes

Helpful questions:

What are you excited about?

What are you wondering about?

What are you worried about?

Friendships and Belonging

Encourage
social
opportunities

Maintain
existing
friendships

Join clubs
and activities

Talk through
friendship
challenges

Children need confidence they can build relationships over time

SEND Support: Preparing Gradually

Children with SEND may find challenging:



Routine changes



Sensory Demands



Social expectations



Organisation



Communication

**Start small
and start
early**

SEND Support: Communication

- Visual timetables
- Checklists
- Written reminders
- Processing time
- Simple language
- Break instructions into steps



Making the Unfamiliar Familiar

During Year 6:

- Open evenings
- Visits and taster days
- Maps and virtual tours



These work best when confidence has been built throughout the year.

Secondary School Open Events 2026 (for September 2027 intake)

School	Day of Week	Date	Opening / Closing Times	Times of Headteacher / Principal Talks
Abbs Cross Academy Abbs Cross Lane, Hornchurch, Essex, RM12 4YB	Thursday	17th September 2026	4:00pm - 7:00pm	4:00pm and 6:00pm
	21st to 30th September - Morning tours available please ring the school to book			
Bower Park Academy Havering Road, Romford, Essex, RM1 4YY	Thursday	24th September 2026	4:30pm - 7:00pm	5:00pm and 6:00pm
	Open mornings for small groups of parents will be held the week following the Open Evening.			
Brittons Academy Ford Lane, Rainham, Essex, RM13 7BB	Wednesday	23rd September 2026	4:30pm - 7:30pm	4:45pm and 5:45pm
Campion School Wingletye Lane, Hornchurch, Essex, RM11 3BX	Thursday	25th June 2026	4.30pm - 7:00pm	4:30pm and 6:30pm
Coopers' Company and Coborn School St Mary's Lane, Upminster, Essex, RM14 3HS	Wednesday	23rd September 2026	4.00pm - 8.00pm	5:00pm, 6:00pm and 7:00pm
Drapers' Academy Settle Road, Harold Hill, Romford, Essex, RM3 9XR	Tuesday	22nd September 2026	4:00pm - 7:00pm	5:00pm, 6:00pm
	School tours for parents and pupils will take place during the week beginning 28th September.			
Emerson Park Academy Wych Elm Road, Hornchurch, Essex, RM11 3AD	Thursday	10th September 2026	5:30pm	5:45pm, 6:30pm and 7:15pm
	Morning tours will be arranged throughout the month following the Open Evening. Please contact the school for further details.			
Frances Bardsley Academy for Girls Brentwood Road, Romford, Essex, RM1 2RR	Thursday	17th September 2026	4:45pm - 7:45pm	5:00pm and 6:00pm
Gaynes School Brackendale Gardens, Upminster, Essex, RM14 3UX	Thursday	24th September 2026	4:00pm - 7:00pm	4:00pm and 6:00pm
	Morning tours available from 25th September until 9th October. Please contact the school to book			
Hall Mead School Marlborough Gardens, Upminster, Essex, RM14 1SF	Thursday	1st October 2026	4:30pm - 6:45pm	4:45pm, 5:30pm and 6:15pm
	Tours will be arranged for parents the week begining the 5th October 2026. Booking details will be available via Eventbrite published on the school website in September.			
Harris Academy Rainham Lambs Lane South, Rainham, Essex, RM13 9XD	Tuesday	29th September 2026	5:00pm - 8:00pm	5:15pm and 6:15pm
	Open mornings will be held the week after the open evening . Booking details will be available on the school wesbite.			
Hornchurch High School Broadstone Road, Hornchurch, Essex, RM12 4AJ	Tuesday	8th September 2026	4:00pm - 7:00pm	4:00pm, 5:00pm and 6:00pm
	Open mornings for small groups of parents will be held in September and October 2026. Booking details will be available on the school website. Please contact the school for further information.			
Marshalls Park Academy Pettits Lane, Romford, Essex, RM1 4EH	Wednesday	30th September 2026	5:30pm - 8:30pm	5:45pm and 6:45pm
	Following the open evening, two weeks of daytime tours led by our Senior Leadership Team offer a glimpse into our vibrant school life and learning environment. Full dates and booking details will be available on the school website in September 2026.			
Redden Court School Cotswold Road, Harold Wood, Romford, Essex, RM3 0TS	Thursday	10th September 2026	3:45pm - 7:00pm	3:45pm, 5:00pm and 6:15pm
	Open mornings for small groups of parents will be held the week following the Open Evening. Booking details available on the school website from 10th September. Please contact the school for further information.			
The Royal Liberty School Upper Brentwood Road, Romford, Essex, RM2 6HJ	Wednesday	23rd September 2026	3.45pm - 7.30pm	4:00, 5:00 and 6:00pm
	Tours can be booked on the school website and every day the following week, and then one day a week after that until half term.			
Sacred Heart of Mary Girls' School St Mary's Lane, Upminster, Essex, RM14 2QR	Wednesday	7th October 2026	6:00pm - 8:00pm	7:30pm
Sanders Draper School Suttons Lane, Hornchurch, RM12 6RT	Wednesday	16th September 2026	4:00pm - 8:00pm	4:15pm, 5:15pm, 6:15pm and 7:15pm
	Tours will open from the week of 28th September,			
St Edward's Church of England Academy London Road, Romford, Essex, RM7 9NX	Thursday	10th September 2026	4.00pm - 7.00pm	5.00pm and 6.00pm
	Tours of the school will be available every Monday and Wednesday between Monday 14th September and Wednesday 14th October 2026. Please call the school office to book your place (01708 730462)			

Final Months Before September



Summer Term: transition events



Summer Holiday: practise journeys and routines



Final Weeks: organise equipment and routines

**Refining
confidence,
not creating it
from scratch**

What If Things Don't Go Smoothly?

Expect some wobbles:

Tiredness

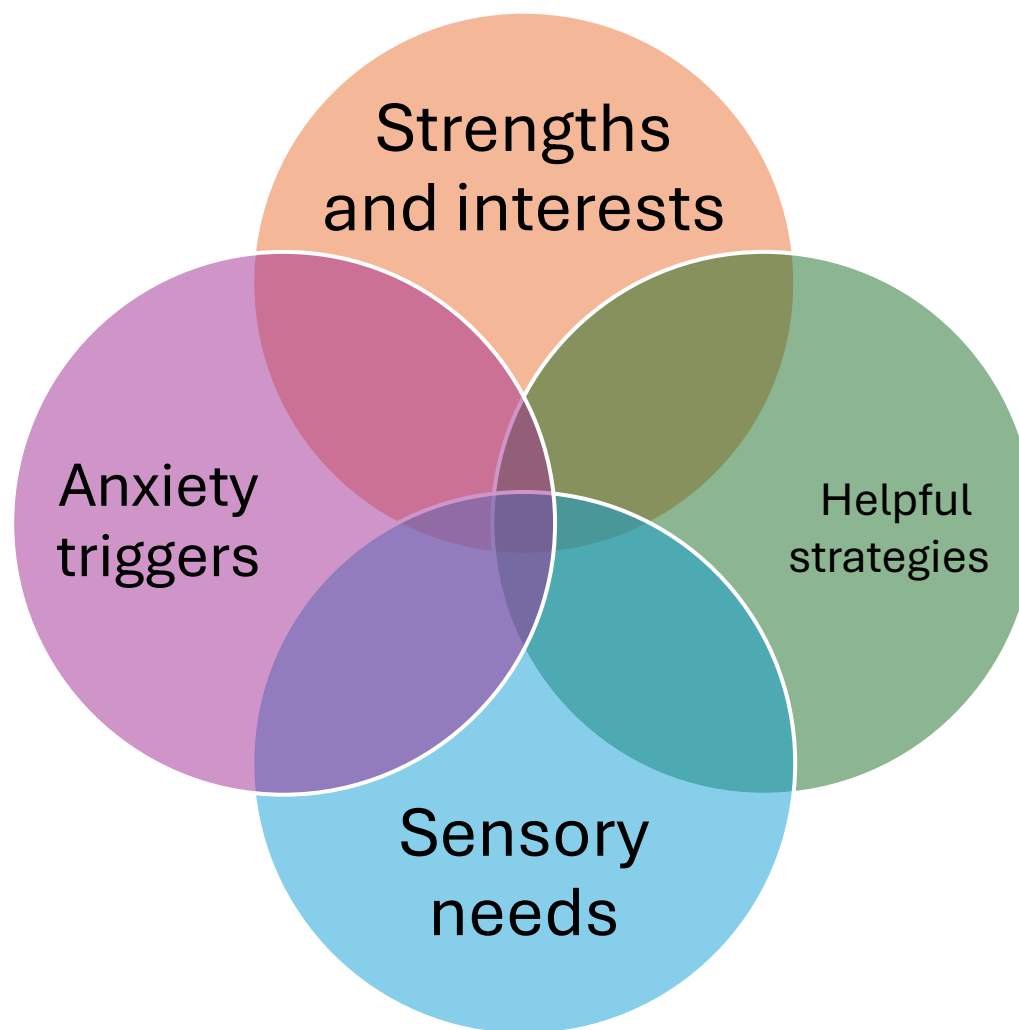
Anxiety

Reduced
confidence

Friendship
difficulties

Celebrate small successes

Working in Partnership with School



Key Messages

- ✓ Start now
- ✓ Build independence gradually
- ✓ Encourage friendships
- ✓ Talk openly about worries
- ✓ Use supports early
- ✓ Work with school
- ✓ **Transition is a process, not an event**



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SECONDARY SCHOOL APPLICATIONS ARE NOW OPEN!



FOR CHILDREN IN YEAR 6



APPLY ONLINE AT:

[www.havering.gov.uk/
admissions/secondary](http://www.havering.gov.uk/admissions/secondary)

On our website you will find:



All the details you need
to make your application



The Secondary School
Brochure – containing all
the useful information



DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS:
31ST OCTOBER 2026

Don't miss the deadline – apply on time!



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Further Support

Creative Education

YoungMinds -

<https://www.youngminds.org.uk/parent/blog/helping-your-child-manage-the-move-from-primary-to-secondary-school/>

Place2Be -

<https://www.place2be.org.uk/our-services/parents-and-carers/getting-ready-to-start-secondary-or-high-school/>

Anna Freud Centre -

<https://www.annafreud.org/resources/schools-and-colleges/supporting-childrens-transition-to-secondary-school-guidance-for-parents-and/>



Free Online Courses for Parents and Carers

Learn simple, practical ways to support your child's wellbeing and learning - all at your own pace.

Access a library of short, expert-led courses. Each course offers clear, practical ideas to help you:

- Understand your child's needs
- Build their confidence and wellbeing
- Strengthen learning at home



SCAN HERE

Get Started Today

creativeeducation.co.uk/haveringparents

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Reflections & Questions

- What are you most looking forward to about your child moving to secondary school?
- What is your biggest concern?
- What strengths do you think your child already has?
- What independence skills would you like them to develop this year?
- What strategies have worked successfully for your child when managing change?