

Transition Visit Guidelines and FAQs (May 2021)

Rationale

In March 2021, when *Edinburgh Learns 3-18 Transition Strategy* was launched, the country was at Protection Level 4. Therefore, in consultation with Public Health, an initial decision was made to plan for a universal Virtual Transition. To support our children and young people with additional support for learning needs, an enhanced transition experience could be developed.

Our guidelines are dynamic and are produced in collaboration with our partners in Health and Scottish Government. Every step is taken to ensure the safety and wellbeing of children, young people and staff in schools, so we continue to take a precautionary approach as Edinburgh remains in Protection Level 2 due to rising cases of Covid-19.

Key Messages

- Schools being open full-time is our priority so we will continue to take a precautionary approach
- **Due to Edinburgh remaining at Protection Level 2 and the rising number of cases, we have consulted further with Health Protection and other local authorities. We have now decided that Transition will be a virtual experience only**
- Children and young people with additional support for learning needs are being offered an enhanced transition experience.

Early Years Transition

- Virtual transition plans will continue to be the core means of familiarisation
- Any physical visit must take place outdoors with measures in place to reduce risk
- Individual settings will communicate directly with parents/carers about start dates and arrangements for settling in
- Transition visits cannot take place if a positive case or outbreak is prevalent in the setting.

Transition to P1

It is very important to consider carefully the rationale for any visit. As parents cannot be part of the visit and ELC staff must hand children over to school staff for P1 visits, please consider whether this will be a positive experience for the child.

- Virtual transition plans, including a range of activities to provide familiarisation experiences for children and families, will continue as the main means of supporting the move to P1
- The school will provide children with exceptional needs the opportunity to visit using an appropriate risk assessment. Children with exceptional needs will be able to visit school setting indoors. Please follow ASL enhanced transition guidance. Parents and ELC staff should not be part of the transition event unless 'absolutely necessary'
- Parents and carers are not able to attend transition events based in a school unless it is deemed essential to support a child with exceptional needs
- Transition visits cannot take place if a positive case or outbreak is prevalent in the setting or school
- Schools will communicate directly with parents/carers about arrangements for the first week of school Wednesday 18th August
- Teachers will ensure that in August pupils will have a range of opportunities to get to know other pupils in the class, staff and their new surroundings.
- School staff can visit ELC settings where necessary, unless there has been a positive case in either setting

Primary School Transition

Change of Primary Class arrangements:

- Meeting of new teacher and/or pupils should happen outdoors where possible
- If outdoors not possible then teacher should go to new class
- Pupils should not move throughout building to other classrooms
- Where make-up of new class is changing (mixing pupils) contact between pupils in different bubbles should be minimised (this includes Composite classes):
 - meet outdoors
 - bring new class 'together' with pupils from different bubbles keeping to demarcated areas
- Moving of equipment and setting up of new classrooms requires enhanced cleaning regimes so should only take place once pupils have left at the end of session. FM should be consulted about any additional moving and cleaning requirements.

Transition P7/S1

- Virtual transition plans, including a range of activities, will continue as the main means of supporting the move to High School

- Schools will communicate directly with parents/carers about arrangements for the first week of school Wednesday 18th August
- High Schools will ensure that in August new S1 pupils will have a range of opportunities to get to know other pupils, staff and their new surroundings
- To support our children and young people with additional support for learning needs, an enhanced transition experience could be developed to include in-person visits using an appropriate risk assessment. Please follow ASL enhanced transition guidance. Parents/Carers and Primary staff should not be part of the transition event unless 'absolutely necessary'
- Transition visits cannot take place if a positive case or outbreak is prevalent in the cluster

If a child receives an in-person visit as part of the enhanced transition, will it affect the virtual transition offer?

No. The virtual transition activities should continue to go ahead, as planned, and be the main delivery model.