

From primary to high school: The next big step

How parents can help



Going to high school will be a new experience for your child. The school is likely to have a large number of students and your child will have several different teachers, different classrooms and will need to carry around notes and books from class to class.

Before your child starts high school, talk to them about the different situations and people they might meet at school and promote the opportunity to make new friends.

With the help of family and school staff, students usually adapt quickly to their new situation.

Please note:

It is essential that you tell your Principal before school starts if your child has any allergies or medical conditions. This can be indicated on the school enrolment form in the space provided.

You should also let the school know as soon as you are aware of any new allergies or medical conditions.

New teachers

In high school, students may have eight or more teachers, plus a Student Adviser to provide help and support. It's common for new Year 7 students to feel concerned about this.

It is important to let them know that there are people to help them and they should not hesitate to ask questions.

Timetables

Subjects in high school are usually taught in lessons of 40 to 60 minutes, called 'periods'. Each subject will be taught for one or two periods at a time. To keep track of all of their lessons and classrooms, your child will be given a timetable that shows their subjects, period times and room locations.

It's a good idea to help your child check their timetable when they get home every evening so they can be sure to pack

their bag with everything they'll need for the next day – such as books, writing materials, PE uniform and sporting equipment.

New friends

Making new friends is perhaps one of the most important tasks your child will face when they start Year 7. Encourage your child to participate in activities so they get to know other people and have a good time.

Parent involvement

Our high schools welcome parent involvement and contributions.

Parent groups like the P&C Association provide an opportunity to become involved in the life of the school and participate in decision making. Volunteering at school events and in the classroom can be a great way to

meet other parents and school staff. We appreciate any help that you are able to offer.

Helping students with special needs

As a parent or carer of a child with a disability or learning difficulty, you will be helped by a number of people who will work with you to make the right choice for your child.

The choices available for secondary school include:

- regular classes in regular schools
- support classes in regular schools
- schools with specific support services.

Before enrolling your child, you will be asked to contact your local regional office so that our staff can assess your options and help you to select the right school for your child.

Uniforms and school clothing pools

Having your child dressed in the correct school uniform on Day 1 will give them a sense of belonging to their new school. Schools often operate a school clothing pool, or the school can advise you which shops supply their uniform.

Travel passes

Application forms for train, bus and/or ferry passes will be available from your child's secondary school in Term 4. These forms are also often mailed out to you with the school enrolment form. They should be returned to the secondary school before the end of the school year to make sure that all passes are available for the start of the next school year.

The Department of Transport manages the School Student Transport Scheme. If you have any further enquiries please call the Department of Transport on 1800 227 774 or (02) 9891 8900.

School contributions and education expenses

Public high schools have two types of expenses. A general voluntary contribution is requested to help the school provide resources and learning opportunities for students.

There are also subject fees, which are requested for specific subjects such as food technology and visual arts. Subject fees help to pay for materials used by your child in each of these courses.

If you are experiencing financial difficulties, please talk to your Principal. Help with the cost of subject fees, as well

as other expenses such as school uniform, school excursions and camps may be available.

Mobile phones

The use of mobile phones and other electronic communication devices during school hours is actively discouraged in our schools and phones certainly cannot be used during lesson times.

Parents are asked to avoid ringing or sending SMS messages to their children during school time wherever possible. If necessary, messages can be passed on to students via the school office.

Telephone Interpreter Service

If you need an interpreter to assist you to contact your Principal, please call the Telephone Interpreter Service on telephone number 131 450 and ask for an interpreter in your language. The interpreter will call the Principal and will stay on the line to assist you with your conversation. You will not be charged for this service.

© May 2006
NSW Department of Education and Training

GPO Box 33
Sydney NSW 2001
T 9561 8000
www.det.nsw.edu.au
NSW Public Schools - Leading the way



Find out more



For further information talk to your school principal, contact your regional office or go to www.schools.nsw.edu.au

For translated information go to www.det.nsw.edu.au/languagesupport