

Middlesbrough Children's Services
Virtual School
School Transitions 2021



Introduction

The PEP process supports pupils at transition points throughout their school journey; this includes transition into care, emergency moves and natural transitions such as starting reception, moving to secondary school or post 16 education.

Middlesbrough children's Services believe that successful transition for looked after children incorporates joint working with foster carers, schools and social workers. Change can often be difficult and often these changes can be even more challenging for looked after children. This is why we aim to begin transition planning at the earliest possible stage to ensure that plans can be put in place and children feel at ease and ready to begin the next part of their educational journey.

The routines and processes in place that support all transitions must be flexible to ensure the needs of individual children are met. Where possible children will need time to become familiar with their new surroundings, at their own pace and with support from their key person. Planning should start 12 months preceding any natural transition point and then be a continuous and evolving process that can be adapted to meet the needs of the individual child. Many activities such as joint meetings between settings and school staff can be on-going throughout the year.

The PEP has a comprehensive action plan for transition planning to meet each child's individual needs.

Our aspiration is that with well supported attachment aware transitions students will engage more successfully in their education, teachers will be more fully informed of prior attainment and future outcomes will improve.

EYFS

Children aged 2+ who attend an educational provision are required to have a Personal Education Plan (PEP) which records both care planning information as well as educational next steps to ensure appropriate progress is made.

Last year;

- 28 children transitioned from nursery to reception
- 6 of those children are now in their forever homes and are no longer looked after
- 3 children had SEN support needs and 0 had an EHCP
- 9 children started reception in schools outside of Middlesbrough

Primary to Secondary

The transition to secondary school is a huge step for all children. It is an especially big step for children who are looked after. When a child moves to secondary school they no longer remain in one class all day, but are required to move around the school. Children have to deal with timetables and a wide variety of subjects.

Some common transitional problems for children are as follows:

1. When leaving primary school children go from being the oldest to the youngest in their new school.
2. From having one teacher in primary school children will have to cope with as many as ten or more teachers with different teaching styles and personalities.
3. Secondary school is much bigger and children will go from having one classroom to ten or more.
4. There is more homework to be done.
5. A larger number of textbooks need to be transported and organised.
6. A longer school day.
7. Greater competition both academically and in sports and activities.
8. Faster pace of teaching
9. Having to make new friends – this is especially difficult if a child's primary school friends have not moved to the same secondary school.

In order to support year 6 transition all looked after children received £1,000 Pupil Premium Plus to ensure enhanced and bespoke transition arrangements were in place.

Last year:

- 43 children transitioned from primary to secondary
- 7 of those children are now in their forever homes and are no longer looked after
- 12 children had SEN support needs and 10 had an EHCP
- 23 children started secondary in schools outside of Middlesbrough

Post 16

Young people left school on the last Friday in June. All young people of school leaving age needed to do one of the following:

- stay in full-time education, for example at school, sixth form college or further education college
- start an apprenticeship or traineeship
- spend 20 hours or more a week working or volunteering while also doing part-time education or training

The local authority has a duty to make sure young people are offered a suitable place by the end of September. This is known as the September Guarantee.

Care leavers are eligible for the 16 to 19 Bursary Fund which can help with things like books, travel and equipment.

Last year;

- 47 children transitioned from secondary to post 16
- 2 of those children are now in their forever homes and are no longer looked after
- 15 children had SEN support needs and 13 had an EHCP
- 38 had an offer of full time education and the other 9 had a training place offer.

September 2021 Education, employment and training figures:

NEET 23%

Education 66%

Employment 6%

Training 5%

Nursery 1

Autumn/summer

Before the child is 2 years old the Virtual School will contact Foster Carers / Social Workers to outline admissions and educational entitlement

Identification of child's needs

Support transition into Nursery

The Virtual School team will monitor progress - pupils will receive additional support if required

Autumn term

PEP within first half of the term

The Virtual School will support Foster Carers and Social Workers with identifying appropriate schools.

Application forms to be submitted by end of October. The Virtual School to support application process where necessary

Virtual School monitor progress and provide additional support if required

Nursery 2

Spring term

National Offer Day Results of School applications sent out.

The Virtual School will contact foster carers regarding places.

The Data Analyst will gather school offer information. Virtual School will offer support where needed e.g. if first choice school place not offered

Virtual School team monitor progress - pupils receive additional support if required

Summer Term

The Designated Teacher will be invited to the PEP meeting.

A date for next PEP meeting set.

Data to be collected from the nursery by the Designated Teacher for primary school

The Virtual School will send out transition post card

Reception

Autumn Term

The Reception PEP should be completed within 6 weeks of the start of the term

The Virtual School team will continue to monitor progress and pupils will receive additional support if required

Year 5

Summer Term

The Virtual School will meet with Foster Carers / Social Workers to outline admissions procedure

Appropriate Secondary Schools and relevant admissions process will be explored with Foster Carers

The Virtual School team will monitor progress and pupils will receive academic support if required

Autumn

The Virtual School will coordinate secondary school open days with Foster Carer and Social Worker.

The Virtual School will support Foster Carers and Social Workers with identifying appropriate schools.

Application forms submitted by end of October. Virtual School to support process where necessary.

Virtual School monitor progress and pupils will receive additional support if required.

Year 6

Spring

National Offer Day 1st March. Results of secondary school applications sent out.

The Virtual School will contact foster carers regarding places

The Data Analyst will gather school offer information. Virtual School will offer support where needed e.g. if first choice school places not offered

Virtual School team will monitor progress and pupils will receive additional support if required

Summer

The new Year 7 Designated Teacher will be invited to the last Year 6 PEP meeting

A date for next PEP meeting set for Year 7

Data to be collected from primary school and given to Designated Teacher for secondary school.

The Virtual School will send out transition post card

Year 7

Autumn

The Year 7 PEP should be completed within 10 days of the start of the term

The Virtual School team will continue to monitor progress and pupils will receive additional support if required

KS3

Autumn Term

Virtual School encourages high aspirations – participation in Aim Higher University visit programme.

Pupils' access to careers advice is recorded and quality monitored

Virtual School will support with options if needed.

Virtual School monitors performance data and interventions put in place where required

Year 10

Spring Term

Virtual School will meet with Foster Carers and Social Workers to outline admissions procedure for sixth form and college

Virtual School will monitor ePEP Transition Plan to ensure careers guidance has been given

All young people will be offered the opportunity to visit a university

Year 11

Summer Term

PEP meeting to be held before half-term for Virtual School to coordinate college and sixth form visits, with young person, Foster Carer and Social Worker

Virtual School will support Foster Carers and Social Worker with identifying appropriate post 16 places

Virtual School offer 1:1 support if necessary.

Virtual School to monitor PEP Transition Plan to ensure transition has been planned appropriately

Year 12

Autumn Term

Virtual School will track attainment and progress through PEPs to ensure the young person is on track to achieve grades needed

Virtual School will monitor performance data and interventions put in place where required.

The Virtual School will be available to support young people on results day and with registering at college.

Virtual School to make contact with Designated Teacher / tutor at sixth form or college.

Virtual School will support first PEP held within the first half of term.