

## Specialist Advisory Teachers for Transition, Year 6 to Year 7

### Who are we and what do we do?

Our aim is to support some of our vulnerable learners with Education Health and Care Plans as they transition from Year 6 to Year 7.

We offer support and guidance, signpost to other services and generally ensure that families and schools work together to meet the young person's needs. Although we do not directly teach or assess students, we are experienced Specialist Teachers and are able to offer oversight, guidance and support in a timely manner.

This support starts in a year 5 meeting with primary schools and parents to discuss the needs of the young person and the support offered by local secondary schools. The support we offer is tailored to suit the needs of the young person. We can attend Annual Reviews, visit schools, and support parents, SENCOs, and the young people themselves. We work closely with SENAT, attending considerations meetings, working with SEND Officers, Special Needs Officers and Team Managers.

The allocation of our caseloads is undertaken by Team Managers. Schools can raise the possibility of an enhanced transition service should it be identified as a cause for concern with their Special Needs Officer.

### Top Tips

Moving from primary to secondary school is a significant milestone for any child and their parent or carer. Below are our Top Tips to support the young person to successfully manage this transition.

### For our primary school SENCOs

- Be **positive** when prospective parents visit a school
- Where SENCOs across localities **work together** and develop links between primary and secondary schools, transitions are more likely to be successful
- **Communication** is key to ensuring a positive transition for all, this should include the parents as well. Ensure key information is shared with the secondary school
- **Support** our children with strategies that enable them to overcome challenges, develop their independence and organisation skills
- **Discuss** what a secondary school will look like and mimic this in the primary setting where possible (after SATS 😊). Learning about change and how to cope with it will help prepare children with this transition. For example:
  - **Switch around** Teaching Assistant support so children aren't reliant on just one key person
  - **Move** to different classes for different subjects

- **Be flexible** with regards to planning for **extra visits**, some young people will need more than two! Don't be afraid to ask the new school for them
- If on offer, **summer schools** are a great way for our young people to start to get use to their new environment and build relationships with key adults

### Visits to secondary schools

- Ensure there is **time** for the child to ask their questions
- If the child needs time to process before asking their questions, arrange for a trusted adult to answer them at a later date
- Some children benefit from taking photos of their new school to revisit later.

### Finally, for our secondary school colleagues

If a child is struggling to settle into their new school, don't be afraid to go back to the primary school for insights and advice. After all, they have spent in some cases seven years getting to know this young person and their family, and may have the answers.