



Parent Guide to Transition



...helping your child with the transition between Primary and
Secondary School

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Transition

Your child is about to enter the next exciting stage of their lifelong journey of new experiences and challenges. At times such as this, the more informed everyone is the more likely the experience will be a positive one. This information guide gives some general information about the transition between primary and secondary school, however if you have specific questions not covered here, then please contact the school.

After the familiar surroundings of primary school (usually with one main classroom teacher and one or two specialist teachers), it can be a bit daunting moving to a secondary school where there are many more teachers, older students, new surroundings and a different approach to timetabling arrangements. Schools have various ways of introducing primary students to high school and most students settle in very quickly. Sometimes however it is the parents who are more bewildered and wonder just how the secondary system works and how much schools have changed since they went. Every school is different, but there are some basic steps that you can take to help your child make the transition to secondary schooling smoothly and easily.

What is Transition?

Transition from primary to secondary school is about moving from one phase in your life to another, and is an exciting time for students and parents. Education Queensland now considers that there are three phases of learning in Queensland schools. These phases are: The Early Years Phase, The Middle Years Phase and the Senior Phase. The middle years of learning are now separated into the senior primary and junior secondary of schooling.

Throughout the Middle Phase of Learning, teachers and staff from primary and secondary schools will work together to offer you and your child a more positive experience as they progress through the Middle Years. In the past it has been seen as a daunting experience for children moving from one Campus to another, however at Loganlea State High School we will assist your child in the “settling in” process by having a team of support personnel including the Dean of Junior School and Care Group Teachers. This approach ensures that the transition between schools is smooth and your child develops a sense of support and belonging.

These staff will support your student in the move to the Secondary Campus with new uniforms, school rules, classmates, teachers, subjects, extra-curricular sport, school policies and procedures, timetables and other organisational changes.

The links between aspects of what is learnt and taught across the Primary and Secondary schools will also assist your child in the transition process. Teachers across both Primary and Secondary schools are now implementing the National Curriculum. This means that there is a consistent approach to learning; making links to what your child has learnt, and is to learn while valuing their needs and diversity. All these considerations are established with the view of what your child needs to be successful in the Senior Phase of Learning (Years 10 - 12).

The teachers at Loganlea State High School are committed to exploring different ways to engage your child in worthwhile learning experiences that will build the necessary skills to enable future employment and active citizenship. Our staff will assist to improve your child’s achievement levels through successful participation and completion of subject requirements. They will also ensure your child has the opportunity to acquire the knowledge and skills for:-

- Working and living productively and respectfully with people from a range of backgrounds and cultures;
- Developing fulfilling and satisfying personal relationships; and
- Actively shaping social, economic and political life.

Adolescence

The transition between Primary and Secondary School coincides with early adolescence. This is a time when many students are developing rapidly – physically, mentally and emotionally, and experiencing all these changes while at the same time trying to establish independence. Some students experience unsettling emotional swings, become overanxious, overconfident or resentful of authority, others appear relatively unaffected by these changes. Friends become increasingly important to teenagers and peer pressure sometimes affects judgement. While changed behaviour can be very frustrating for parents, it is important to remember that young adolescents still need their parents and the guidance they offer and you should continue to have clear rules and boundaries for your child.

Characteristics of Young Adults

Early adolescence is a distinct developmental state of life.. The accelerated physical and personal development that occurs during this period is the greatest in the human life cycle and is marked by great variance in both the timing and the rate of growth. These are the years during which each individual forms his/her adult personality, basic values and attitudes – those things will determine one's behaviour. During this phase of life adolescents:

- Reach physical maturity at an earlier age than their grandparents and acquire apparent sophistication earlier than in previous generations;
- Seek autonomy and interdependence;
- Are by nature explorers, curious and adventurous;
- Have intellectual capacities seldom tapped by traditional schooling;
- Learn best through interaction and activity rather than by listening;
- Seek interactions with adults and opportunities to engage in activities that have inherent value;
- Physical and social developments become priorities;
- May be sensitive, vulnerable and emotional; and
- Are open to influence by significant others in their lives.

Secondary schooling.....

its not such a

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So what can you do to help your child within this transitional phase?

The keys to transition:

- Keep the lines of communication open between you and your child, the school and your child's teachers.
- Take the time to read the various emails sent home and the schools website and Facebook.
- Talk to your child about the work they are engaging in at school and find ways to assist them in their endeavour to learn, by taking your child to the library and finding resources to help them complete their assignments.
- Contact the school or your child's teacher when there is a concern (don't let it fester and become bigger than it has to be) - open communication is the key to success.

Familiarise yourself and your child with the school by:

- Attending their Open Day and Orientation Day.
- Accessing the school's website and Facebook to check out what happens and what is on at the school that might interest your child.
- Consider participating in the Parents and Citizens group.

Assist your child with developing good work and study habits by:

- Providing a place where they can complete their home work e.g. a desk or study area.
- Discussing with them their assignment and homework needs and helping to program these into their workload, social calendar and timeframe.

Help establish and maintain a routine:

- This is an ongoing process that starts from day one at high school. It is especially important to establish and maintain a regular homework routine as after school study is expected of high school students.

Help your child with understanding and working to a timetable:

- At the beginning of the year, work with your child through their weekly timetable assisting them to read it and knowing where they have to be. Discuss the things they will need to pack in their bag for each particular day on the timetable.
- School binder and planner (Diary) must come to school each day.
- Ensure your child has adequate sleep (place boundaries around the use of electronic devices after a set time).

Build Relationships:

- Attend the Open Day and walk around the buildings – getting a feel for the school. This is also a valuable opportunity to meet with teachers and administrators, as well as check out school facilities and get an idea of the school layout.

Increase your child's self-reliance:

- So much more is expected of students at high school, gradually increasing the level of responsibility at home, communicating your expectations can help children develop self-reliance and coping skills that will kick-in during critical times in secondary schooling.

Provide encouragement:

- Some adolescents will surprise you with their resourcefulness and strength during stressful times. Others benefit from having someone there to give a cheer or a smile from the sideline.

Listen:

- Provide your child with opportunities to express their feelings about school, sport, drama, friendships or any other topic, and take a genuine interest in what they say.

Information for the families of future Year 7 students

(adapted from, 'Your Next Step', Education Queensland)

By Year 6 most children are starting to become a little more independent. While encouraging this independence is important, it is equally important to recognise that young people in Year 7 and 8 still require plenty of help to organise themselves. Your support is still needed and can be provided in ways such as:

Travel arrangements:

- Help children become familiar with transport arrangements. As well as tickets and timetables, discuss strategies for dealing with possible problems.

Books and materials:

- Find out about text book requirements; hire schemes (if available) and stationery requirements. Help with organisational details such as naming all equipment.

Uniform requirements:

- All items of clothing should be named. Your child may feel strange in the uniform at first so reassure them they look good and will be wearing the same thing as every one else.

Attendance:

- Every Day Counts - It is a legislated requirement that children attend school daily. Set a minimum target of 95%. This means that in any year a student should have less than 10 days absent (includes sick, holidays and suspensions).

School organisation:

- Timetables and new school rules may be daunting at first and may require some discussion at home.

New routines may be required at home, as your student:

- Becomes involved in extra-curricular activities
- Needs to organise homework and study

Your child is beginning the adolescent stage of their development. They will be meeting new people, making new friends and needing to make decisions about a range of issues. As your child faces these challenges, be prepared to give them your time to listen and allow them to express how they feel about their experiences. It is an important time so work on establishing and maintaining positive channels of communication.

School Support:

If your child has particular needs or has received special assistance up to Year 6, you are able to seek assistance from a number of people in Year 7 so make sure you communicate this to the school. Guidance Officers provide an education, career and personal counselling service and are available for consultation. Contact the school office to enquire about making an appointment.

Best wishes to you and your child as you begin this next exciting step! We are sure that your child's time at Loganlea State High School will be looked back on as "the best years of my life".

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The following statements from some Year 7 students may assist you to answer questions your child may have about moving from one campus to the next.

What some Loganlea State High School Year 7 students have said.....

Teachers and Timetables

"Our care group meets every day for notices and to mark the role."

"I like having different lessons with different teachers."

"I was surprised at how quickly I got to know my timetable."

"Our Dean is there to help us."

Making Friends

"I've made lot of good friends. I enjoy meeting new people."

"I usually find

Work

It's great doing new subjects and learning new skills."

"With different subjects you really have to be organised."

Settling In

"We were given information and a map. It didn't take me long to know where everything is."

The uniform felt strange at first but now it feels pretty comfortable."