

Other information...

We appreciate that moving to secondary school can be worrying for any pupil. To ensure that all pupils settle in well, every pupil will have a Pastoral Care teacher allocated to them. The Pastoral Care teacher will be responsible for monitoring your child's progress and ensuring the transition from primary goes smoothly.

Pastoral Care teachers are responsible for classes as below –

| | |
|-----------|----------------------------|
| 1C | <i>Mr Stevenson</i> |
| 1O | <i>Mrs Beck</i> |
| 1L | <i>Mrs Boyle</i> |
| 1M | <i>Miss Friel</i> |
| 1B | <i>Mr Coyle</i> |

Arrangements are also made to support pupils with additional support needs. Mrs Cormack, Principal Teacher of Support for Learning, and her team of ASN auxiliaries provide in class support (and one to one support where required) to ensure that the needs of all pupils are met.

Our associated primary schools provide us with comprehensive information about your child. This helps us to plan on an individual basis – staff will 'know' your child before they start in St Columba's.

Finally?...

In St Columba's your child will only reach their full potential if the school and parents work together. We are, therefore, committed to maintaining a genuine partnership with parents.

Throughout the year we will keep you up to date with what is happening in the school through newsletters and other information.

If you have any concerns about how your child is settling in or progressing, please do not hesitate to contact his / her Pastoral Care teacher. All parents will be contacted by the October break once their child has been interviewed. You will also be sent your child's progress report by the end of November.



01475 715 250

Please let us know if you have any comments about the content of this Parents' Guide.

St Columba's High School



Gourock

A

Parents' Guide to coming to Secondary School

Every learner matters, every lesson counts

Introduction...

Moving from primary school to secondary is an exciting and significant event in the life of your child. We are also aware that this move can be worrying for both pupils and parents, and we work hard to ensure that your child's move to secondary is fully supported.

When a young person starts secondary school they are expected to cope with a whole series of new experiences. Many of the changes require skills that they have not had to use before and children benefit from having support at home to help develop these new skills .



This leaflet aims to provide you with the information about things that you can do at home to help your child achieve independence.

What is different about secondary school?...

Secondary school differs from primary in a number of ways –

- children often have to travel further and many have to travel by bus
- pupils have a whole new list of rules and regulations to follow
- pupils can have up to 12 teachers instead of one – they will come into contact with a range of adults who have different roles
- the school is much bigger and they have to move around from class to class
- they have to carry their books and equipment around with them
- they have to follow a timetable which can seem complex at first
- pupils are expected to keep a planner up to date and record their homework in it
- break times and lunchtimes are organised differently

In conclusion.... children are expected to become more independent, self reliant and self organised but the good news is that most see this as a welcome development.

What can you do?...

To help your child settle into school you can ensure that they –

- arrive at school on time by having a set routine in the morning
- have enough sleep
- have a school bag and the proper equipment eg pens, pencils, etc
- display a copy of their timetable in a prominent place at home
- keep their planner up to date and check it every evening
- complete homework on time
- have a set time and place for completing homework
- pack their school bag the night before



