**What are transitions?**

​Transitions are the moves children and young people make from home to an early learning and childcare (ELC) setting, from there to primary, from stage to stage, from primary to secondary, between schools and from secondary to further education and beyond.

Transitions and changes are part of everyone's life. The vast majority of children and young people look forward to moving on. However transitions can be challenging and support from parents and staff can help transitions go more smoothly.

**What can I do as a parent?**

It helps children and young people at all transitions if parents:

* talk with them about what is going to happen
* encourage them to ask questions
* encourage them to talk about any concerns they may have
* listen carefully to their concerns and consider sharing them with other relevant people
* help them to become familiar with the new school or setting and what will be expected of them.

​​**How will my child's school help to ensure that transitions go smoothly?**

Primary teachers work closely with early learning and childcare staff to ensure that information about your child's learning and achievements ​are passed on. Staff will also share other information that will help the teacher support your child's learning, for example friendship groups, preferred ways of working.

**How can I help?**

To help prepare your child for a good start you can:

* listen and talk to your child about this change in their lives​
* involve your child in getting ready for school by helping choose the things they will need, for example their uniform, lunchbox, schoolbag
* talk to your school if you have questions or concerns
* support staff in getting to know your child, let them know about interests and health issues
* keep in touch with the school about anything that may affect your child's learning
* find out how the school will communicate with you