

Transition to Year 7

Questions and Answers



To all of our Year 6, as you prepare to leave us to move onto your secondary schools, here are some questions that may be on your mind. As Alfred Street pupils will be moving on to several different schools come September, it is difficult for us to be specific, but hopefully, the answers we provide will fit with your selected school.

Your first task is can you identify your new school badge and identify which other schools Alfred Street Junior School children are going to this year by the badges shown on this page.



Q: We haven't had any transition this year because of Covid-19, what will happen about this?

A: In September, you will be going to your new schools, possibly for the first time. As there will not be any transition days in July, the first few days and weeks will be set up to ensure that you learn the routines and settle in as quickly as possible. Each school will want to get to know you and it is important to show all the elements of RESPECT that you have been learning about at Alfred Street. Rest assured, each school will want to help you to settle as quickly as possible and will be putting in a series of activities designed to help you achieve this when you start. Already, some schools have sent out activities to their new students online and further information about each school can be found on their website.



Q: Will I be in the same tutor group as my friends?

A: Whilst we cannot guarantee this, we have passed on information to each school about your friendship groups and who you do and don't work well with. They will use this information to form tutor groups and will try to ensure that you are put in the same tutor group as someone else from our school if this is possible. It may not be – especially if you are the only one going to a particular school! However, part of the excitement of moving to a new school is getting to meet new people and make new friendships and I am sure that



you will all quickly do this.

Q: Will I get the help I need if I find the work difficult?

A: Making sure that all children are able to access the learning at their level is something that all schools strive for and your secondary schools will want to do this also. The important thing to do is to ask for help when you need it and then your new teachers can ensure that they support you. Your form tutor is one person you might want to speak to as you will meet with them more regularly than some of your other teachers who you may only have once a week. We have told your new schools all about you so that they can best support you come September. However, the important thing to remember is, as it is at Alfred Street is to speak up.

Q: What if I get lost?

A: Secondary schools are much bigger than primary schools and the sheer size of the school and its buildings may seem daunting at first. When you first arrived at Alfred Street in Year 3, you probably felt the same then and quickly found your way around. The same will be true at your secondary school. The important thing to remember is that there will always be people around that you can ask and buildings are usually well labelled. Make sure that you use your learning timetable so that you know where you are supposed to be and when and travel around with members of your class when you can.

Q: Will I be able to take part in any clubs?

A: Each school will provide a range of clubs (sporting and other interests) for you to get involved with and we would encourage you to learn about these as soon as you can and join the ones that interest you. You won't regret it!

Q: Will I get homework?

A: Yes! There is no escaping this one and you will get a lot more than you have had at junior school. Most secondary schools give out daily homework for you to complete because this is what will ensure you have a better chance of success. It is important that you write down

what you need to do as you go to your lessons and plan your week out so that you can complete it on time. Don't leave it all until the last minute!

Some schools offer opportunities to complete homework tasks in the library, computer suite or another specified classroom and this might be something you want to take advantage of. Unfortunately, not completing the homework is not an option and secondary schools are usually very strict about this. Incomplete homework will often result in an after school detention. Repeated incomplete homework will trigger additional support or further consequences. So, our advice... get it done!

Q: Where can my parents buy school uniform from?

A: Most secondary schools have online suppliers that you order the uniform directly from. If you are unsure, visit the school's website to find this out or ask your parents to speak to them directly.

Q: I have heard that you are very strict about school uniform. Is this true?

A: Generally, yes! Students at each school will be expected to look smart and professional at all times. This means they often check uniform at the start of every day. Each school will have their own set of expectations and it is important that you know these. This will be something that your new school will discuss with you in September.

Q: What equipment will I need?

A: You will certainly need a bag to carry your books and equipment around as you will be responsible for taking the right equipment to each lesson. You may be given a planner to record your homework and a timetable of lessons to help you learn key information for your school day. These should be taken to school every day. Additionally you should carry with you a reading book, pencil case – you won't be provided with pens, pencils, rulers etc so you should provide your own – a dictionary and possibly a scientific calculator which your school might advise you on.

It is important to find out when your PE lessons are. You will be expected to ensure that you have your PE kit in school for these lessons and failure to do so may lead to a detention or

another consequence. At other times you may be required to provide equipment for other lessons eg ingredients for Food Technology lessons. Make sure you are organised and pack your bag each evening ready for the next day. Again, don't leave it until just before you leave in the morning as you are more likely to forget things and then get into trouble.

Q: Will I have to do tests or exams in Year 7?

A: Just like junior school, your teachers will want to know how you are getting on and may give you tests to see where you are in your learning. This may be more likely this year as you didn't sit your SATs in May. However, any tests you are given will be used to support your learning and you shouldn't worry about them. Just think, you have done this all the way through junior school, so it will be no different.

Q: Will students who disrupt learning be taken out of class?

A: Each school will have their own behavior policy in school which will determine what will happen if children disrupt learning. The most likely option is that a student disrupting learning will be removed from class so that you can get on with your lessons. Further consequences will be discussed with you when you arrive.

Q: What happens if I am absent from school?

A: Excellent attendance is key to your success, both academically and socially. All schools aim to have a 95% attendance rate which means that if you are off for more than 10 days in an academic year, you will fall below this. This can then put you at a disadvantage compared to others in your year group. If your attendance falls below this, your parents might be asked to speak to the school about this. Having said this, we all get sick from time to time and so, if you are ill, make sure that your parents notify the school and see if there is anything you need to catch up on when you return. Always try to get to school if you can.

We hope that you have found this advice useful. If you further questions or worries, feel free to ring the school between now and the end of term and we will call you back.

Good luck as you move onto the next phase of your education. Best wishes,

Mrs Smith and Mr Butler