

How do we prepare children with SEND to join their next stage of education or life?

When children are new to Nursery/Reception class teachers make home visits and, where possible, visit previous provision in order to ensure appropriate support can be put in place before a child starts their education at St Mary & St Margaret's. All children new to Nursery or Reception receive a special welcome booklet with photographs and information about school. Where children are new in other year groups staff take time to look at any assessment data from previous schools and children are invited to their new classes as part of the whole school 'Meet the Teacher' session in the summer term. If a child starts mid-year staff will, where possible, meet with parents to discuss interests and abilities.

As pupils progress through school and move to new year groups staff share information, both academic and social/emotional, and the children have time to spend in their new class with their new teachers and support staff. If a child has significant difficulties additional visits and transition booklets can be made available. This includes pictures of their new teacher, their new classroom and other key parts of the school including the hall and playground for example. Occasionally it is necessary to change 1:1 support staff, if this happens we will talk to parents/carers and children so that all stakeholders understand the reasons for any changes and can discuss concerns.

As children move to secondary education they all visit new schools and if a child has additional needs staff from the new school are invited to meet current teachers and to observe the child in their current class. If we believe a child needs additional support then one of our Child and Family mentors delivers a programme to aid transition; this is based on support previously provided by Speech and Language Therapy Services from Warwickshire County Council. The SENCo also contacts the new schools in order to share any relevant information and then all paperwork is passed on and signed for by the receiving school. Where appropriate additional visits can be made to new schools with members of staff from St Mary & St Margaret's.

If a child leaves school mid-year the SENCo will contact the new school to discuss individual needs/resources in addition to paperwork and class teacher information being forwarded to the new school.