

The Transition Process

A guide for parents and carers

For some children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), going to a mainstream school can have a transformative effect on improving their independence and future outcomes.

Special schools have a thorough knowledge and understanding of a pupil's capabilities and their potential. They may identify pupils that would benefit from this integration into a mainstream school.

Derby City Council is here to give you, as parents and carers, the support and guidance you need as you consider the best option for your child.

How does the transition process work?

An effective transition between schools takes time. For children and young people, it should be an enjoyable life event that motivates and challenges them.

We will work with you to achieve this. When discussing a decision about moving schools, we won't only look at academic development and achievement.

We'll also focus on routines, interests, social networks, family circumstances, other professional involvement and relevant medical information, alongside any additional needs.

What happens after the move?

The transition process uses shorter steps and points of review to help schools identify whether the move is working and implement timely adjustments if outcomes are not as anticipated.

The child or young person remains on the roll of their old school throughout the process – providing an option to return if the move doesn't work for them.



What are the benefits?

For children and young people

- Better attainment and social outcomes
- More likely to be educated closer to home
- Encouragement of greater independence

For parents and carers

- Confidence that your child has the same opportunities to grow and develop as others
- The opportunity for your child to participate in a more diverse school community

For schools

- Local children and young people accessing local school places
- Positive influence on community behaviour, including acceptance and consideration for others
- Best use of resources to benefit children and young people

Jason's story

Jason attended an enhanced resource facility in primary school. His support plan included regular opportunities for him to spend time within the mainstream classes to build his confidence and encourage independence in line with his peers.

During discussions to consider his next school place, his parents indicated that they wanted him to go into a mainstream secondary school. With support from his primary school, we were able to support that transition.

This supported his long-term ambitions, giving him access to a wider curriculum, and providing him with a greater number of options for academic and vocational subjects in school. He remained close to home, accessing community networks and making steps towards adult independence.

**Ask your school SENCO or SEND Officer
for more information, or contact us at
sendreviews@derby.gov.uk**

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