



Transition Policy

Transition is the means by which children experience a smooth, effective and happy passage from one setting or stage to another; Home-Pre-School and Pre-School to Year 1 of Primary School. Positive transitions are a shared responsibility of parents, pre-school and primary staff, each valuing the expertise and crucial role that all have to play. The welfare of the child is paramount therefore the staff will work in partnership with parents to ensure the child feels safe secure cared for and integrated into Nursery/Primary School as quickly as possible.

Aims

- To ensure the pupils of Ballymagee Nursery experience a smooth transition from home to the Nursery and from Nursery to Year 1 of Primary School;
- To ensure that all staff see the transition as a process rather than an event;
- To inform pupils and parents about the transition process.

Implementation

Transition to Primary School builds upon and extends the experiences children have had in the pre-school year.

Activities Undertaken to Promote Successful Transition from Home to Pre-School

Prior to receiving a Pre-School place (December/January)

- Hold open days for prospective parents to visit the Nursery and talk with staff. Prior arrangement with staff is welcomed

Prior to starting Pre-School (June)

- Parents are invited to an Information afternoon in the Nursery to share curriculum information and give out policies, start times, holiday dates and permission slips;
- Children and parents are encouraged to complete an 'All About Me' booklet;
- Where necessary liaise with parents/carers, relevant agencies, playgroup staff to discuss aspects of the child's development;
- Staff will plan a settling in period to allow children to develop in confidence in their new environment;

Start of Pre-School - Settling In Period

- Children begin Nursery gradually and in small groups to allow familiarisation with the setting and to enable staff to build good relationships with each individual child;
- Children and their parents are invited to small group 'stay and play' sessions, to try on the new uniform and build relationships with staff and peers;
- Parents are asked to stay with their child initially for two sessions until they are happy about being left;
- When parents are ready to leave they should say 'goodbye' to their child, making this short and prompt and return at the agreed time;
- During September children attend nursery for shorter sessions. The session times and class size increase gradually until all are children attend for the full session by the end of September;
- The settling in period is flexible and if a child is unsettled or upset we encourage the parent to stay, based on the advice of nursery staff;
- If a child becomes anxious/upset the nursery staff will reassure him/her and aim to refocus/distract them at an activity;
- We are happy to receive telephone calls from parents if they are concerned about how their child has settled. We aim to alleviate their fears but if a child is very upset we will be honest and offer appropriate advice;
- Children may bring a comfort toy from home and keep it in their box in the hallway.
- It is important that children attend every day, unless unwell, in order to develop good relationships with staff and their peers;
- If a child remains upset during the phased settling in period the teacher will discuss the concerns and agree an appropriate action plan;
- In order to reflect good nursery practice, foster positive relationships and for the child to benefit from nursery, it may be necessary to limit the length of time of the child's day. This will be kept under review as appropriate.

Activities Undertaken to Promote Successful Transition to Year 1 of Primary School

Throughout the pre-school year Nursery children have opportunities to forge links with the main feeder school;

- Attend school events. e.g.; Harvest, Christmas and Easter assemblies, Foundation Stage Nativity, Primary 7 End of Year Play;
- Visit the school library regularly, participate in a walk about of the school, go on a bear hunt/picnic in the Primary School and participate in shared play sessions in P1 areas;
- P1 staff and children attend Nursery events, e.g.; Nursery Nativity.

Term 3

- P6 'Buddies' visit Nursery to become a known friend. Photos of the buddies will remain in Nursery to encourage familiarity;
- P1 staff and children engage in shared play sessions at Nursery;
- Nursery children engage in shared play sessions at Primary 1 resource area;
- Nursery children will meet all the staff who will be involved with them in Primary 1;
- Small group Induction/information afternoons at school are held for new Primary 1 children and their parents;
- Nursery and Primary 1 teachers meet to discuss children's progress and share curriculum and practical information;
- 'Play Dates' are arranged in the Primary 1 resource area with the other main Pre-School feeder for Ballymagee, Early Days;
- The Nursery Teacher will provide detailed Transition reports and be able to speak to Year 1 teachers.

Start of Primary 1

- Nursery staff visit P1 children on the first day/s
- Nursery children are encouraged to re-visit Nursery to show their new uniform and share how first day in 'big' school went.

