



Primary to Secondary Transition: Year 6 FAQ

Preparing Your Child for Secondary School

When your child is getting ready to move to secondary school, there are some things that parents and carers can do to ensure their child is ready. Below is some advice you may find useful:

- ✓ Use the school's website- take a look around our school and encourage your child to do the same. We have some really useful information and a section on Year 6 transition to help your family familiarise yourselves with staff, routines and life at Hillcrest.
- ✓ Ensure your child has all the correct equipment they will need for their lessons. You can find the equipment list in the Parent's Handbook and also the Student's Handbook.
- ✓ Check you have the correct uniform for your child by looking through our Uniform Booklet which is available on the school website and will also be given to new Year 7 parents in the Summer of 2021.
- ✓ Work out your route to school, whether you're walking, taking the bus or travelling by car. Practice so you are confident you have made enough time to get to school on time!
- ✓ Help your child to take more responsibility. Your child will have to organise herself far more than primary school. Get them into the habit of getting their bags ready the night before and have a homework and activity schedule on the wall, which can help them to prepare what they will need for the next day at school.
- ✓ Talk about the changes with your child and ask them what they are looking forward to, but also what they are worried about at secondary school. Then you will have plenty of time to work out strategies and talk through any issues with them. Our Head of Year 7, Miss King can also reassure you and your child if you are concerned about any aspect of starting secondary school.

Frequently asked Student questions

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1. When will I know if I have a place at Hillcrest School?

After the closing date of 31st October 2020, the Local Authority will process the applications that were made on time. If your parent/carer applied online and provided the Local Authority with an email address, they will email them on 1st March 2021 to tell them which secondary school you have been offered. A formal letter will also be posted by 1st class by the LA on Monday 1st March 2021. The offer letter will explain how to accept the offer that has been made and your parent/carer can send the reply slip to us at Hillcrest. The deadline for acceptances is 15th March 2021

2. How will I be supported through the move to Hillcrest School?

Hillcrest has a full transition process starting in March 2021 and running through to September 2021. We will meet with you and your parents/carers and give you all the information you need. We will speak with your Primary School teacher and you will also attend a Year 7 induction day in July. In September you will have a further two induction days before the rest of the year groups return to school.

3. I'm feeling really nervous about the move to secondary school. Who can I talk to?

If you are feeling nervous then you can discuss your concerns with your parent/carer who can make an appointment with our Head of Year 7, Miss King.

4. What should I do on my first day?

Before the summer term, you will be informed about which tutor group you will be in. On the first day of term, you will need to go to your form room. During transition day in July 2021, this will be shown to you.

5. What shall I bring on my first day?

You will need to bring your school bag with all your equipment in it. You will also need to bring your summer booklet that you completed over the summer holidays. You will not need your PE kit on the first day.

6. How will I get lunch on the first day?

We have a 'Cashless' system at Hillcrest and all food is paid for through 'ParentMail' which your parent or carer will be informed to join before you start in September. Lunch money can be added to your account by your parent or carer and you will only need your name on your first day of school. After the first day, you will be issued with your own swipe card, which will be used to pay for food items in the canteen.

7. What if I miss my bus or get stuck in traffic?

If there is a legitimate reason why you are late to school, including transport difficulties, medical appointments or car breakdown, we would ask parents/carers to contact the school to inform us in advance. You will need to sign in with the Head of Year who will be able to guide you to your form room.

8. What if I don't understand my timetable?

If you are unsure about anything on your timetable, your Form Tutor or Head of Year will be able to help you. If you are unsure of what room to go to next, please go to Student Reception and Ms Meggitt will be able to show you which room you are in and how to get there.

9. What subjects will I do?

Year 7 students are arranged in mixed ability form groups in which they are taught for the following subjects: Dance, Drama, PE, Technology, Art, Computing, History, Geography, Music, Religious Education and PSD. Students are placed in ability sets for the core subjects (English, Maths and Science) usually at the end of the first half-term in Year 7. Students are then banded into groups in French during the first term in Year 7.

All Year 7 students will experience the lessons below:

Art

Computing

Dance
Drama
English
French
Geography
History
Mathematics
Music
Personal & Social Development and Citizenship (PSD)
Physical Education (P.E.)
Religious Education (R.E.)
Science
Technology

In Key Stage 4, compulsory subjects are English, Mathematics, Science, French, PE and RE. Advice and guidance about the most appropriate choices is given to all students in Year 9 during the options process. All GCSE courses start formally in Year 10, although students will begin to study some course content in lessons in Year 9.

10. What equipment will I need?

It is important that students have the basic equipment for lessons. Suggested essentials are:

- Pens (blue, black and green).
- Pencils, a pencil sharpener, a selection of coloured pencils
- A rubber
- A ruler
- Glue stick.
- A notebook for rough work
- A protractor and compass.
- A Casio fx-83GT PLUS Natural-V.P.A.M Scientific calculator (available from most supermarkets)
- An English Dictionary.
- A French Language Dictionary.
- Scissors and a small stapler.

Students will be issued with a swipe card in order to borrow books from the **Open Learning Centre**.

A selection of equipment is available to be purchased in the Open Learning Centre.

11. What if I don't understand my homework?

If you are unsure of any piece of homework, please speak to the teacher who issued this or send them a message via Show My Homework (SMHW). We also have a homework club which takes place after school every day with Mrs Preston and Mrs Penn.

12. What if I leave my homework at home?

It is very important that you try and remember to bring your homework each day. If you do accidentally leave your homework at home, please speak to your teacher or Form Tutor.

13. Will I have a locker?

Lockers are in your form room or just outside in the corridor. The lockers are for everyone in your form, and there should be some left over for any new students. Lockers can be used for putting books and PE kit in when you don't need them and any other items that doesn't need to be used.

You must put your coat in your locker and not carry it around with you.

Before you start in Year 7, you will need to buy a padlock for your lockers for the first day. You should give a spare key to your Form Tutor just in case you lose yours. If your locker is in a classroom, you must collect books and other things you need a few minutes before your lesson starts.

14. What do I do if I feel ill?

If you feel unwell, you must tell your teacher who you are with. The medical team will contact your parents/carers if you are too unwell to be in school.

15. What should I do if I get lost in school?

If you get lost in school, please ask a member of staff or another student who can help you or go to Student Reception.

16. Can I bring a drink, snack and a packed lunch?

Students are allowed to bring drinks and snacks to school but items with a high sugar content are not permitted.

17. What is the uniform like?

Please see the Uniform booklet that is on our website.

18. Who will help me if I have a problem?

We have a number of staff who are available for you if you have a problem. We have Miss King who is the Head of Year 7, Mrs Bunce who is the Senior Learning Mentor and your form tutor.

19. At primary school I had extra support with my learning. Will I still get this?

In Year 7, we identify the additional needs of students from information and results provided by primary schools and the completion of tasks focusing on literacy and numeracy skills. This allows us to put the support needed in place for our students, such as in class assistance or small group work following specific programmes. Students also have the opportunity to join lunchtime and after school reading and homework groups. Support is also provided for students who need additional help when English is not their first language.

20. I'm the only person from my Primary School coming to Hillcrest. How will I make new friends?

There will be lots of opportunities for you to socialise with your new form and year group in school and making new friends is an exciting part of starting a new school. Find out about our clubs in school and join in, this is a great way of meeting other people who have similar interests and there will be other people in the same position as you.

21. What type of clubs and trips will I be able to take part in?

Activities during the lunch hour or after school are an important part of life at Hillcrest. They encourage students to pursue their interests and help them make friends in other forms or years.

The Performing Arts Department organises a range of choirs, instrumental groups, Dance and Dance activities and parents are invited to our concerts which are held each term. There are various PE teams and activities held during the lunch hour and after school. There is also an Art Club, Maths Clinic, Science Club, Technology Club and Homework Club to name but a few.

Visits have also been to Spain, America, Australia, Alton Towers, Drayton Manor, London and Stratford. Language visits have also taken place to France. There are residential field courses in Geography for Sixth Form students and many day trips for all students in curriculum areas, including Outward Bound Activities. Visits to theatres, art galleries and museums are also an integral part of the school curriculum.

22. How will I know the school rules?

On your first day, you will be issued with a Student Guide which will go through all of the school rules and our 'Getting it Right' reward system.

Frequently asked Parent/Carer questions

23. What happens if my child is absent from school?

Please call the main school phone number of 0121 4643172 and click option 1 for attendance on the day of your child's absence.

24. Can my child bring her mobile phone to school?

Mobile phones are not encouraged, but we understand that some students may want them as a safety measure on the way to and from school. Therefore, if brought in, they must be switched off and kept in a bag, out of sight as soon as the student first enters the school building at the start of the day. They must remain switched off and out of sight until the student leaves the school building at the end of their day. Mobile phones used, seen or heard in school will be taken from students and a 60-minute SLT detention will be issued. Parents/carers will be asked to collect them in person from the school. If a student refuses to give their mobile phone to a member of staff, they will receive a 60-minute detention and be internally isolated for a day in room 35 for refusing to comply with instructions.

The school can take no responsibility for any phones or other valuables brought into school.

25. How do I give my child lunch money?

IT IS VERY IMPORTANT THAT ALL PARENTS SIGN UP TO <https://www.parentmail.co.uk/> to receive texts/letters from school and pay online for your child's lunch money, school trips etc.

Hillcrest School is committed to ensuring that parents are kept informed on all the exciting events and activities that occur in school. We use a system called ParentMail to communicate with our parents and carers. You can use your ParentMail account from your computer, IPAD or the free ParentMail App on your mobile phone. We will keep you informed of the following via ParentMail: -

ParentMail - Text/Communications

- Emergency/school closure information will be sent by text message.
- Receive messages, newsletters and school letters via email.
- Keep up-to-date with school events and information

ParentMail - Paying for School Items (students CANNOT bring cash into school)

- Top-up your child's lunch money so that they can use their swipe card to purchase food and drinks in the school dining hall.
- Pay for items online e.g. all school trips, school ties, revision books, swipe cards, stationary.
- View the meals that your child has eaten at the school dining hall.
- A hot and cold meal deal is available each day for £2-35.

26. Where and how can we buy the school uniform?

Uniform is available from the below suppliers

Gogna Schoolwear and Sports

67/69 Rookery Road Birmingham B21 9QU

Tel: 0121 5235572

W: www.gognaschoolwear.co.uk

Somal Fashions

11 Faraday Avenue
Birmingham
B32 1JP
0121 423 2969

Colliers

1 Chatham Road Northfield B31 2PH
Tel: 0121 4757874