



Frequently Asked Question

Transition and the First Few Weeks

We know that leaving first school and starting middle school is a huge transition, not just for children, but for their parents and carers too. We hope that the following frequently asked questions will go some way to answering the most pressing questions and help ease the transition for all. If you have a question that is not answered here, or on our wider website, please don't hesitate to call the school office on 01527 876 026 or email us at office@astonfields.worcs.sch.uk where we will do our best to help you.

Will my child stay in their classroom with their class all day?

In short, the answer is no, they won't. However, we do try and keep our Year 5 pupils within their own block as much as possible. They will spend much of the first half term in their form class and will move to other classrooms for specialist lessons, such as Music or Computing. Around October half term, the pupils will be put into Maths and English groups and then they will move to different classrooms for these lessons too.

Year 5 pupils are always escorted around the building for the first few days / weeks (we let the pupils dictate how long this happens for) until they are happy to make their own way to lessons.

Where do I drop off and pick my child up from at start and end of the day?

The Key Stage 2 playground is the yard directly outside of the Year 5 block (visible from Drummond Road). In the morning, pupils come onto this playground and it is supervised by staff from 8.40. At the end of the day, the Year 5 pupils will leave school via the same gate. Whilst we don't physically hand pupils over to parents / carers as may have happened at first school, the gate is always supervised at the end of the day and staff will help pupils to find their adults and will always look after pupils until they are happy with how and who they are going home with.

Do you allow pupils to walk to and from school unaccompanied?

The decision to allow your child to walk to and from school is one that families need to make. Many of our pupils do walk to and from school, but we ask that you support us in ensuring that they know how to keep themselves safe when crossing the road etc before allowing them to do so. Road safety messages are shared frequently with pupils during class and assembly time and the think.gov.uk website is full of helpful resources for parents and carers to share with their children too.

What clubs does the school offer?

We offer a huge range of clubs, both sporting and non-sporting. We offer these clubs before, during and after school. The clubs available will be released to parents / carers early each term so that you can sign your child up to those that are of interest to them. Numbers are often limited due to health and safety considerations, so booking is on a first come first served basis. A full list of the clubs we currently offer is available on the school website.

Do you offer wrap around care?

Unfortunately, this is not something that we offer at Aston Fields Middle School. However, we do signpost to Castle Kids, who collect a number of our pupils daily. Other families use local childminders.

Will my child be put into ability groupings for Maths and English?

Yes, they will, but we do not do this until around October half term. We allow pupils to settle into life at middle school and get to know them a little before putting them into sets. The sets are decided based upon information from first schools, the data we have gathered ourselves during the first few weeks, but most importantly from the work we have seen in the classroom and the conversations we have had with the children. The sets are never set in stone and the staff in school will always look to move pupils who need extra support or challenge to achieve all they are capable of.

What will transition be like for my child and when will it begin?

Transition has already very much started. The town's middle schools work closely together to ensure all pupils in our collective feeder first schools get to experience some time in a middle school right from the start of Year 4.

Here at Aston Fields Middle School, we have already had pupils visit for a football event and to enjoy a morning of music and singing. In the Spring term, these events continue so that all local Year 4 pupils will have some experience of a middle school, even if it is not the one they eventually end up attending.

Once middle school places are allocated, more targeted transition will begin. Those pupils from our main feeder first schools will experience a lesson taught by our Year 5 staff and will have the opportunity to ask our staff any questions they may have about their new school. Our safeguarding lead will also visit these schools to talk to pupils about life at middle school and all the things they have to look forward to.

For pupils coming from the smaller feeder schools, or from out of catchment, a member of Year 5 staff will, wherever possible, still visit these pupils so that they have the opportunity to ask questions and find out a little more about Aston Fields Middle School.

In addition, we ask first schools to identify any pupils who they think may benefit from extra transition. This could be for a number of reasons, such as extreme anxiety or significant SEND etc. We will invite these pupils and one of their parents / carers into school late in the summer term to experience a practical lesson with some of our staff so that they have an additional opportunity to allay any worries.

Our official transition day happens in September. The new Year 5 pupils will start school a day before the older pupils return and will have the entire building to themselves. They experience a whole day in school and get to see what it is like here prior to the rest of the school coming back.

How will I know which class and house my child is in?

Parents and carers will be invited into school in July for a 'Welcome to Year 5 Evening'. During this evening, you will be told which house and class your child has been allocated and have an opportunity to meet your child's form teacher, Director of Year and other key staff.

If I have any concerns or worries about my child who do I talk to?

Your child's form teacher will almost always be your main port of call if you have any worries or concerns. If you call the school office or send an email to office@astonfields.worcs.sch.uk, the form teacher will get back to you. If your query is more subject specific, it may be better to contact their subject teacher instead, which can again be done via the office or email. All pupils will be given a copy of their timetable and a planner in their first few days of school. The planner is an important means of communication between home and school and is another place for you to communicate with your child's form teacher. It will also have the names of all of your child's teachers, as well as a huge amount of other important information.

How will I know what my child is learning?

All of the subject pages on the school website are regularly updated with all of the information about what pupils will be learning. These pages can be found by subject rather than on the year group or class pages, as they may have been in first school. Additionally, newsletters are sent home at the start of each term and there will be information in these about what pupils will be learning during the upcoming term.