Secondary Transition

A programme for Year 6 pupils who may need extra support around the transition to secondary school. The aim is to give the pupil quality time with an adult to:
- *explore feelings about change*
- *build a positive attitude to the move and improve self-esteem*
- *have an opportunity to learn more about the new school*
- *explore and improve social communication skills including issues around friendships*

An important first step when planning the programme is to gather pupil views. Resources which can be used include:
- *All about me, pupil passport, Blob tree, Ideal school activity*
- *Baselines included with the outline programmes below – Romsey Mill, Skills for Secondary*

1. SEND Service outline programmes:

- C&I – Moving on up resource
- Romsey Mill – Ready to go resource
- SEAL – Changes programme
- C&L – Skills for secondary school resource

Ideally school TA (trusted adult) to lead the programme with 1-1 short, daily sessions (or longer weekly sessions) in a quiet space. These sessions are to be backed up by the child included in a small transition group meeting 1x per week.

Suggested content for 1-1 transition sessions:
- *Hopes for secondary school and concerns and worries (include the pupil voice scales completed with the pupils)*
- *Friendships including issues/concerns. Support the pupils to create a summary poster of their ideas and pick 2 to look at in detail possibly using the Comic Strip Conversations resource if the TA has experience with this.*
- *Anger issues. Explore what happens to the body when angry, triggers, and potential tricky situations around the new school. Record ideas using a poster /mind map. Pick 2 issues and use 'The Incredible 5-point scale' resource to support the pupils in creating their scales to help with emotions self-regulation.*
- *Bullying. Explore using a poster/mind map to record ideas. Pick 2 issues and support the pupils to create comic strips to explore strategies they can use.*
- *Useful information about the new school. You will need to find out about the school layout, timetables, uniforms etc and who will be the main contact, any buddy system, and planned visits.*
- *Re-visit pupil voice scales to see if there have been changes in responses. Cover any other issues which may have arisen through the sessions. Finish by supporting the pupils to make an 'All about me poster/booklet so the secondary school knows the key points about them.*

Additional visits (in addition to the planned move-up day/induction day) are to be arranged with the new school (if required). Ideally, pupils to be able to access lunchtime, library session or Special Ed rooms, meet new key /nominated workers, maps and uniforms, timing details etc.

2. **Useful information to be obtained from the secondary school:**

- New school transition pack (if available)
- Name of contact/s
- Any visits planned to primary school by secondary staff
- Visit dates to a new school (both for all Y6 and individual for target child)
- Example school layout, planner, timetable

3. **Possible resources/activities to be included:**

- Social Stories / Comic strip conversations/visuals to support visits to a new school and build strategies for coping with tricky situations
- Incredible 5-point scale linked with emotions and colours from comic strips
- Hand of friendship
- Positive affirmations from staff (link with good to be my poster)
- Moving On the game, talk about, Talking to Friends, Talk about secondary, Think about it activities (all Black sheep press)
- Go Zen picture resource to support calming strategies
- Build a project book around visits to the new school – include photos of staff and places (could design a questionnaire to use with the new staff - act as a 'reporter'). Find out about uniform code, behaviour code, homework, timetables, menus, and what to do if you have a problem.
- Present the project to the rest of Y6.
- Share any pupil passports, all about me posters, and strategy tips with staff at the new school

NB—Remember the use of technology- iPads, iPhones, laptops, chrome books. Communication passports, timetables and all necessary information can be stored and accessed from these.

Useful Links, Apps and References

- ◆ www.autismeducationtrust.org.uk
- ◆ www.carolgraysocialstories.com/carols-club
- ◆ www.elklan.co.uk
- ◆ Strip Designer and Bookabi app
- ◆ The New Social Story Book' Carol Gray
- ◆ 'I Can't Do that' John Ling
- ◆ 'Writing and Developing Social Stories' Caroline Smith
- ◆ 'Comic Strip Conversations' Carol Gray
- ◆ ELKLAN's 'Language Builders for Verbal ASD' Liz Elks and Henrietta McLachlan
- ◆ ELKLAN's 'Secondary Language Builders' Liz Elks and Henrietta McLachlan