



Gawber Primary School

FOUNDATION STAGE TRANSITION POLICY

September 2022



Rationale

At Gawber Primary, we believe that transition to a new school or class should be planned, smooth and well managed. We aim to ensure it is stress-free for children, staff, parents and carers. Effective communication between school staff, parents and previous settings ensures that new starters feel safe, well-known and cared for. Before transition, teachers liaise with staff from previous settings to discuss children's needs and abilities. This prior knowledge enables staff to plan activities to challenge each individual child and support their academic and emotional development. It is vital that all staff in school see all pupils as their collective responsibility, including new starters.

Transition into FS2

Transition for new starters begins in the summer term before they are due to start school. Teachers visit children at Gawber Pre-school, where many of our new starters attend. Children from all settings are invited to visit the classroom with their parents and carers. Parents are encouraged to leave children with their new teachers for a short time during the visit, so children can explore the classroom and begin to build a relationship with their new teachers. These visits are split into small groups, which gives staff more time to interact with individuals and allows the children to explore in a calm, quiet environment.

In the first week of school in September, children initially attend for half a day, to allow children to adjust to their new setting gradually. Children then stay for full days, with familiar staff supporting children at lunch times until children are confident with routines. Teachers discuss any children who are struggling with the transition with parents and carers, and agree on strategies to best support them.

For children transferring out of FS2 into another setting, the Barnsley LA transition form will be completed and forwarded on with a copy of the child's learning journey and any other relevant documents, including support plans if necessary.

Links between settings

For children transitioning into FS2, teachers contact each child's current setting to discuss their current development and interests with their key workers. Teachers then use this information to plan activities that will challenge and engage new starters in September. If a child does not attend a childcare setting, teachers invite the child and their parents into school or visit them at home where appropriate.

At the end of summer term, FS2 teachers meet with the Year 1 teacher to share EYFS profile data and information about each child's characteristics of effective learning. The aim of these discussions is to raise standards and set individual targets for children to ensure they reach their full potential. Medical details and SEN paperwork are also exchanged. In the last two weeks of the

summer term, FS2 children spend a morning in the Year 1 classroom with their new teacher, to enable them to feel confident in their transition to their new class in September.

Transition information for parents

In the summer term, we invite parents and carers of new starters to meet the Headteacher and FS2 teachers. This meeting welcomes parents to the 'Gawber Family,' and we provide details of routines and expectations in the setting. Families are given a welcome pack which provides ways to support children's development at home in preparation for school. Parents are asked to complete an 'All About Me' booklet about their child, which gives gives teachers an insight into the children's interests and other key information.

In September, parents are given links to sign up to Class Dojo, which class teachers use to share the children's learning and provide information for parents to support their child at home, such as links to phonics lessons.

Transition arrangements will be amended in line with school and local risk assessments when required.