



*"Inspiring minds to ignite lifelong learning"*



**Onchan Primary School**  
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## **Transition Policy**

### **Introduction**

Transition refers to the movement a child makes from one familiar setting to another, such as from home to school, or from one key stage to the next. This policy outlines the processes and procedures in place to support children as they settle into new learning environments, preparing them for future learning and development.

At Onchan School, we recognise that transition points can significantly affect children's social, emotional, and academic wellbeing. Our aim is to ensure that every child's educational journey is continuous, seamless, and positive. Key transition points include:

- From Nursery or home to Reception
- From the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) to Year 1
- From Key Stage 1 (KS1) to Key Stage 2 (KS2)
- From Year 6 to Secondary School

### **Aims**

Our aim is for all children to experience smooth transitions so that the quality of learning is maintained, and children continue to make strong progress. Effective transition will enable children to:

- Adjust successfully to new settings.
- Develop resilience and confidence to cope with change.
- Understand what to expect and adapt with appropriate support.

This policy also seeks to:

- Support a happy and secure transition from home to school and between year groups.
- Develop independence, self-confidence, and the ability to manage change.
- Ensure children and parents/carers have a clear understanding of new expectations.
- Act upon relevant information from outside agencies, particularly for vulnerable children.



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- Promote positive partnerships with parents/carers in supporting their child's education.

## **Transition from Home to Reception**

The journey into school is a crucial stage in every child's life. Onchan School is committed to ensuring this process is positive, supportive, and successful.

### **Autumn Term**

- Stay and Play Sessions (November and February): Informal sessions for children and parents, enabling early communication, sharing of information, and opportunities to familiarise with the setting.
  - Transition Speed Dating (January): EYFS staff meet with nurseries and other early years settings to share relevant information about children.
  - Nursery Nativity Visit: Local nurseries are invited to attend the Reception nativity rehearsal, strengthening links and familiarity.

### **Spring Term**

- Stay and Play (February): A second session to support children and families unable to attend in the Autumn.
  - Parents' Information Evening (May): A formal meeting providing details about routines, expectations, uniform, and daily life in Reception.
  - New Starters Website Page: Staff share stories, videos, and information online to aid familiarity.

### **Summer Term**

- Nursery Visits (June): Reception staff visit nurseries to observe and engage with children in their familiar environment.
  - Social Story Packs: Distributed to children to help familiarise them with the school environment and routines over the summer.
  - Pre-School Assessment Centre (PSAC) Transition: Meetings with parents and PSAC staff are arranged for children identified with additional needs.
  - Transition Sessions (July): Two half-day sessions where children attend school independently, building confidence and reducing anxiety ahead of September.
  - Part-Time Placement Considerations: In exceptional cases, phased entry may be agreed if needed, although the benefits of full-time attendance are emphasised.



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- Phonics Parents' Meeting (September): Parents are introduced to the school's phonics programme and strategies to support early reading.

## **Transition from EYFS to Year 1**

The move from a play-based EYFS curriculum to the more structured National Curriculum is carefully planned to support children.

### **Summer Term**

- Year 1 teachers spend time in the Reception environment.
  - Formal staff meetings are held to share assessment information and pastoral needs.
  - A social story-style video of the Year 1 environment is shared on the website.
  - Children spend two consecutive transition days in Year 1 classrooms.
  - Vulnerable or AEN pupils are given extra transition visits.
  - Reception and Year 1 staff swap to read end-of-day stories.

### **September**

- Year 1 begins with a balance of continuous provision and structured teaching.
  - Play-based learning opportunities continue alongside whole-class teaching, gradually increasing as the term progresses.
  - Planning ensures progression, challenge, and consistency with EYFS practices.

### **Transition from Class to Class**

- All children spend two days in their new classroom with their new teacher(s) towards the end of the Summer Term.
- Staff transition meetings ensure all academic, pastoral, and safeguarding information is shared.
- Assessment data and pupil progress summaries are formally transferred.
- Pupil Progress Meetings highlight strategies for supporting children vulnerable to underachievement.
- Parents are invited to a "Meet the Teacher" session in the Autumn Term.
- Activities in the first week of September focus on helping children settle, before moving quickly to a regular timetable.



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## **Transition from Primary to Secondary School**

Most pupils transfer to St Ninian's High School (SNHS, Lower School – Bemahague).

Transition is supported through:

- A Roadshow event in Year 6 to introduce families to the process.
- An Open Evening in Term 2.
- Visits from the Head of Year 7 and subject teachers.
- Opportunities for Year 6 pupils to attend events at SNHS during the year.
- Transition day in July.
- Liaison between Onchan staff and the secondary school transition team.
- Additional transition sessions for those children who have been identified as struggling with transitions.

All academic, pastoral, and safeguarding records are transferred securely. Year pupils complete a unit of work called 'Moving Up', which addresses key aspects of transition such as personal safety, peer relationships, and preparing for secondary routines. Former pupils are invited to return to share their experiences of transition.

The achievement of the cohort of children leaving Onchan School is celebrated through a Year 6 leavers' performance to Parents and Carers which also includes the presentation of awards, a leavers' party and presentation of a Leavers Hoody (organised by parents), and the traditional signing of the shirts on the last day.

**Re-adoption Date: September 2025**

**Review Date: September 2026**