

What will change at Secondary school and what will stay the same.

Getting ready

Primary School: You needed to be up and ready before 9 o'clock. You needed to wear a school uniform, and take a bag with lunch or lunch money, school books and school diary.

Secondary School: You will need to be up and ready early too and you will still need to wear a uniform. You need to pack similar things for secondary too like your lunch and books. Now you are older you can be more responsible and remember which days you need to pack your homework and sports uniform.



Getting to school

Some kids might walk, take a bus or ride their bike to school if their parents aren't dropping them off. They might be able to catch the bus or walk or ride to school with other kids going to secondary school.

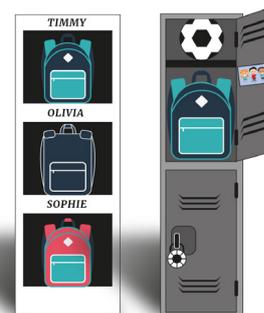
If catching the bus, you will need to get to the bus stop. If you're not feeling confident about finding the bus stop you can practice the walk with a parent or friend so that you feel ready to do it by yourself. If you feel anxious you could call your parents.



Your bag and items

Primary School: You had a hook or pigeon holes to keep your bag. You kept your books inside the classroom and went to your bag to get your snacks and lunch.

Secondary School: Students will have their own locker with a combination lock or 'lock and key' to keep their belongings safe. If you have any trouble getting into your locker you don't have to worry because your homeroom teacher will be able to help you.



Your friends

Primary School: You probably had some close friends in your class, and knew lots of the other students in the playground.

Secondary School: Some of your close friends may be going to your new secondary school but others might be going to a different school. You might miss them, but will make new friends at secondary school.



School size

In secondary school there might be lots more students. The kids in the higher classes will be older and mostly taller than you.

There may be lots more faces that you don't know, and it might be louder and sometimes you may feel a little overwhelmed.

When that happens you can take some slow and deep breaths, or find quieter parts of the classroom or school yard.

You can also remind yourself that you're probably not the only one who would feel like this. Over time you will get to know more of those faces, and you never know which of those new faces may one day become a good friend!



Classrooms

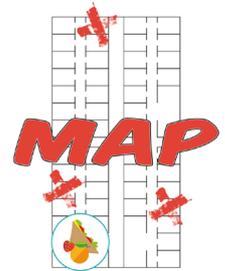
Primary School: Students often have one main classroom for their grade.

Secondary School: Might be much bigger than your primary school was, and you won't stay in the one classroom. Different classes might be in different rooms or buildings.



Finding your way around

It might take a little while to know where all your classes are. You can ask for a school map and mark your classes on it so you know where to go. Lots of students can feel a little anxious about finding their way around. When this happens you can ask for help – after all, everyone was a new student at high school at some point, so they'll know how you feel!



Teachers

Primary School: You may have had one main teacher who took your class for most of the day except when you did subjects like PE and library.

Secondary School: You will have one main homeroom teacher, but different teachers will probably take lessons for different subjects. It might take you a little bit of time to get used to different teachers and the way they teach and the way they like their class to behave. That's ok.

More teachers will mean more people you can go to if you need any help, and it can be really interesting getting to know different people!



Homework

In secondary school there might be more homework than previously. You can learn to manage that homework by breaking it down into manageable amounts, and working on it steadily after school each day.

If you are finding being organised difficult, you can ask your parent/caregiver or teacher for help with planning your homework.

If you are finding the homework too difficult to complete without help, you can let your teacher know – they can save the tricky stuff for school time when they can help, and give you other work for at home.



Some things you did in primary school will be very similar to what happens in secondary school and some things will be new and different!