**Transition – PaCC parent carers workshop 10th May 2023**

Fed back from parent carers and list of useful information

Parent carers fed back:

* It would be good if in addition to open days, schools could also offer a couple of days when the child can visit the school with more time.
* Transition should be facilitated by previous teacher handing over information about the child’s needs to the new teacher.
* Timetables should be organized well in advance and someone to be assigned before the year ends to be the person who then meets the child in the new year.
* Parents to be able to have short meetings (10mins) with a new teacher before the new academic year.
* It is important that a pupil passport or one page profile/plan, is agreed with the SENCO for SEND pupils, which needs to be read and understood by any member of staff that is involved with the child’s education or school day (e.g., could include midday meal supervisors). That also means better communication between the SENCO and teachers.
* For a parent carer to be able to talk to the teachers, not just the SENCO. The parent can pass on some very valuable information to the teacher/s which can make a huge difference to how the child feels whilst in the class and in the school building.
* There were discussions about how key adults for check-ins etc. can be really helpful.
* A key person that can communicate with the parent, to improve continuity; and it could be written in the provision and be formalised
* Close liaison/communication and joined up approaches; the school needs to involve the child and the parent and other relevant professionals to agree a plan of support
* Children can feel much more relaxed when they are not pressurized to do things on their own, to ‘become more independent’
* To ensure parent carers (or their voice/representation) are given opportunities for consultation around curriculum planning - e.g. PSHE or careers sessions on developing independence /life skills etc. Also including parents with lived experience to join training sessions for staff.

Parent carers attending the workshop also provided some ideas for good strategies:

* A 3D video of a person walking through the school
* Co-production between school and parent from the start
* Allow the child to wear their new uniform at home for few days before the school starts; the child will get used to it and feel more relaxed when wearing the uniform at school
* Reduce the school map building by highlighting only the places of interest to the child, the spaces where the child will need to be; a great way to facilitate orientation too

PaCC will include the feedback and experiences shared by parent carers in the work we do with services and schools to help create positive outcomes for children, young people and their families. All feedback will be used anonymously.

Other useful information and links:

* “Starting Secondary School” fact sheet that gives useful tips about preparing for transition: <https://amazesussex.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/Starting-secondary-school-pan-Sussex.pdf>
* [Managing the transition to secondary school - Amaze (amazesussex.org.uk)](https://amazesussex.org.uk/managing-the-transition-to-secondary-school/)
* [Supporting-Transitions-2.pdf (beaconhouse.org.uk)](https://beaconhouse.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/Supporting-Transitions-2.pdf)
* [Supporting children's transition to secondary school | Childrens mental health and wellbeing in schools | Anna Freud Centre](https://www.annafreud.org/schools-and-colleges/resources/supporting-childrens-transition-to-secondary-school-guidance-for-parents-and-carers/) 12 page guide - free to download or read online
* [Place2Be: Parenting Smart: Helping your child when they start or change primary school](https://parentingsmart.place2be.org.uk/article/helping-your-child-when-they-start-or-change-primary-school) 6 min read and 2 min video
* [Place2Be: Parenting Smart: Helping your child prepare for Secondary or High School](https://parentingsmart.place2be.org.uk/article/helping-your-child-prepare-for-secondary-or-high-school) 10 min read
* A Young Minds transition info for moving to secondary but unfortunately they only refer to parents not parents and carers: [How Parents Can Help With Secondary School Transition | YoungMinds](https://www.youngminds.org.uk/parent/blog/helping-your-child-manage-the-move-from-primary-to-secondary-school/)