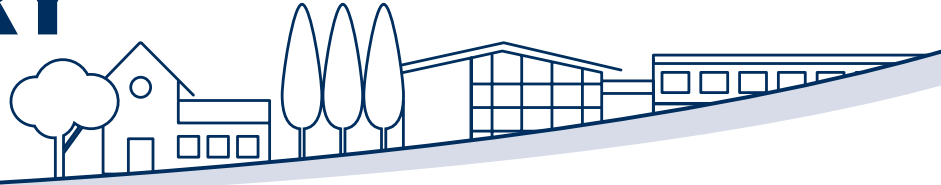


STARTING SECONDARY SCHOOL



Government of South Australia
Department for Education



Parent Checklist: preparing in the school holidays

Countdown to high school

Take a look at this checklist and see what year 6 students and their families can do now and over the holidays to prepare for secondary school.

Make transition a priority

We've said it before and we'll say it again – transition is important!

To do:

- Look out for school communication about other transition and orientation events late this year and early next year, like family evenings, bring your own device nights and possibly school camps.

Chat about the year ahead

Starting secondary school is a big step. Check in with your child to see how they are feeling about the year ahead.

To do:

- Reassure your child that it is normal to feel a mix of excitement and nerves about heading to secondary school.
- Be realistic when talking about the time it will take to make new friends and settle in.
- Remind your child there is a lot to look forward to in secondary school, including new friendships, extra-curricular activities and specialised learning facilities, like science labs.

Look online

The Department for Education website includes a section with information for students on starting secondary school.

To do:

- Look through the [preparing your child to start secondary school](#) page of our website and the [information for students](#) page with your child.
- Find and bookmark your new high school's website.
- 'Like' the school on Facebook if they have a page set up.
- Sign up for your school's newsletter. Check with your school to find out how it is distributed.

Consider materials your child will need for secondary school

Your secondary school will let you know what your child will need in terms of uniform and learning materials. If you are unsure, ask.

To do:

- Involve your child in the shopping experience and deciding on the best options according to your family's circumstances.
- Make sure all your child's belongings are named.

Plan your journey

The more prepared you are, the smoother your child's first few weeks of high school are likely to be.

To do:

- Chat to your child about how they will get to high school, what time they will need to get up and when they need to leave the house.
- Consider whether your child will need a key and a mobile phone if they are getting to and from school on their own.
- Discuss how your child can make the journey safely if the weather is hot. For example, by packing iced water and being sun smart.
- Do a practice run of catching public transport or walking to school.
- Visit the [Adelaide Metro](#) site to check services and apps your child can use to plan their journey.
- Plan and discuss with them what they can do if they miss their bus or get off at the wrong stop.

Set up a quiet learning space

Your child's learning will continue beyond the classroom as they progress through secondary school.

To do:

- Set up a quiet space at home where your child can study.
- Talk together about your expectations around when study will be done.
- Remind them that teachers will help them to succeed with school assignments and it is OK to ask for help.