



Kings Langley  
Secondary



Bedmond  
Primary



Bovingdon  
Primary Academy



Kings Langley  
Primary



Nash Mills  
Church of England  
Primary



Sarratt  
Church of England  
Primary



St Pauls Chipperfield  
Church of England  
Primary



## Kings Langley Partnership of Schools

*Working Together to Prepare our Children for the Challenges of Tomorrow*

# Top Tips for Starting Secondary School A Guide for Parents



Starting secondary school is a significant milestone in a child's life. It marks a passage into adolescence and brings about several significant changes. They will go from being the oldest in school to being the youngest, having to find their way around a large new school with different teachers for different subjects. They will also have to take more responsibility, such as:

- ♦ taking a new and unfamiliar route
- ♦ planning for each day's timetable
- ♦ making sure they have the right books and equipment
- ♦ doing homework most evenings, which has to fit into their routine alongside other interests



### Choosing a school

- ♦ Make time to talk to your child about what they want out of secondary school.
- ♦ Visit potential schools with your child in year 5 and then again in year 6 so you have plenty of time to consider your options
- ♦ Make sure you get your child's application form in on time
- ♦ Don't pin all your hopes on entry into one chosen school. Try to have at least one second choice that you'll both be happy with to avoid the disappointment of missing out.
- ♦ For more details of secondary admissions in Hertfordshire visit [www.hertsdirect.org/services/edlearn/admissions/](http://www.hertsdirect.org/services/edlearn/admissions/)



# Starting Secondary School

## Getting ready for secondary school

- ◆ Once your child has a place at a school, make sure you attend the open day arranged for new pupils. These days are vital to help new pupils settle in.
- ◆ Shop for uniform and equipment in good time. If this is expensive, it may be possible to get help with the cost. Contact the school or the LEA to find out.
- ◆ Travel the route to school together a few times so it becomes familiar and use the buses if that is part of the route.

## Once at Secondary School

- ◆ Encourage your child to get organised for school the evening before. This can save them (and you!) a lot of undue stress in the morning
- ◆ Remind them to check their timetable for the following day, pack their bag and lay out their uniform if necessary
- ◆ Try and resist the temptation to do everything. Your child needs to learn to manage their time efficiently and they won't do it if you get everything ready for them
- ◆ At this age, children start to want more privacy when they're getting ready. Consider organising a schedule for the bathroom in the mornings so no-one is made late by waiting
- ◆ Your child will probably have several homework tasks to complete each night, and most schools record this in a homework diary. Make a note to yourself to read and sign the diary at least once a week to make sure your child is keeping up with their assignments
- ◆ Have a calendar on display at home clearly marked with different equipment needed for different days (sports kit, music, projects etc.)
- ◆ If your child is getting to school on public transport for the first time, find out if any friends live nearby so they can travel together
- ◆ Use every opportunity to keep in contact with the school - this may be more difficult now that classes are bigger and your child has many different subject teachers. However, if the school has a website, be sure to check regularly for information updates and news

## Staying Safe at School

You may worry about your child's personal safety at secondary school and it is important to ensure your child knows they can turn to you if they are concerned about anything. Tell your child that bullying in any form is always wrong and that they can tell you or another adult if it happens to them.