



THINKING OF CHANGING YOUR CHILD'S SCHOOL?

Moving your child to a different school can be stressful, affecting your child both socially and academically. It is important that you consider whether a transfer is the best option. Please read the below information before considering applying for a school transfer.

Why do you want your child to change schools?

If your request is for any of the reasons below, it is advised that the following steps should be taken before applying:

Child not attending school - Discuss with your child and the staff at the school, the reason why they do not want to attend. Explain to staff if your child is worried about anything in particular and discuss how the situation can be resolved.

To avoid exclusion - Discuss with staff at the school any reasons why your child's behaviour is non-compliant with the school's behaviour policy. Discuss with the school your child's 'Pastoral Support Plan'. If a plan is not in place, ask the school if it is possible to set one up. If your child has a plan in place, ask if it has been reviewed recently.

Special Educational Needs - Discuss the situation with the Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENCO) at the school or if you have a query about a child with an Education Health & Care Plan, contact the Special Educational Needs/Education Health and Care (EHC) Plan team at the council. You can also get impartial advice from the Special Educational Needs & Disabilities Information, Advice and Support Service (SENDIASS). The link can be accessed as follows: [Hartlepool SENDIASS :: Home](#)

Bullying or friendship issues - All schools have an anti-bullying policy. Talk to staff at the school about how the issue can be addressed and resolved.

You have a complaint about the school or unresolved issues - Ask for a meeting at the school to discuss. If you feel your complaint has not been dealt with satisfactorily, ask the school for their complaints procedure and put your complaint in writing to the Chair of Governors at the school.

Things to consider before changing your child's school:

Teaching and school organisation - Each school teaches the National Curriculum in different ways and at different times of the year. Have you thought about how your child will cope with learning new rules and doing things in different ways?

From Year 9 onwards, children will have chosen their exam options (for GCSE) and you may find that your child is not offered the same subjects. Exam boards and course work for their chosen subjects may be different, resulting in your child possibly having to re-start coursework. Some schools also start GCSE coursework in Year 9, so your child could miss out on crucial elements.



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Relationships - Your child's emotional wellbeing may be affected by moving schools, this can be a big change for a child. How will your child adjust to being in a new class, where friendship groups are already formed?

Uniform - Have you considered the cost involved for the purchase of new uniform, including full PE kit?

School travel - A change of school will usually be regarded as parental choice and as such you would be unlikely to be eligible for help with travel assistance to the preferred school. How will your child travel to the new school?

After considering the above, if you decide to apply for a school transfer, you must inform your child's Headteacher of your decision. There is no guarantee that your preferred school will be able to offer your child a place, as a high percentage of schools in the area are full, with waiting lists in operation.

If you wish to discuss transferring schools further, please contact the Admissions Team, on 01429 284368 or e-mail: admissionsteam@hartlepool.gov.uk