

HOW TO_

PLAN A VIRTUAL TRANSITION DAY WITH YOUR LINK SCHOOL



Leaving primary school at the end of Year 6 is an exciting but daunting time for many pupils. Think back to when you left primary school - how did it feel? Were you excited about starting secondary school in September, a bit nervous or both?

As a result of the pandemic, the new year 7s coming into your school in September probably won't be taking part in the traditional transition day this side of the summer holidays. This is the day where they would normally have the opportunity to visit their new secondary school before they start properly as a Year 7 student. They would usually find out more about the layout of your school, get to know a bit more about the timetable and take part in activities to help them get to know each other and their new teachers.

But this year, you're going to have to be creative! It's more important than ever that you think about what you can do as a team of Anti-Bullying Ambassadors to make them feel welcomed, safe and happy in their new school.

So our question for you is - as an Anti-Bullying Ambassador team, what can you do before September to support new Year 7s in your school?

VIRTUAL-TRANSITION ACTIVITIES TO GET YOU STARTED_

CREATE AN ONLINE Q&A PAGE_

With your Anti-Bullying Ambassador team and supported by your staff lead, find out what your team's worries and concerns were when you joined your secondary school in Year 7. Chances are, the concerns of the current Year 6s won't have changed much since you were in their shoes! You could then create an online question and answer page where you, as Anti-Bullying Ambassadors, answer these common questions and concerns. Alternatively, your staff lead may be able to help you get in touch with the link schools to find out what their Year 6s' questions are about secondary school. Once you have created your online Q&A page, your staff lead can help you get this information out to your school's link primary schools and the pupils who will be joining in September.

WRITE BLOG PIECES_

Does your Anti-Bullying Ambassador team have any team members who are currently in Year 7? If you're in Year 7 then it wasn't that long ago that you were new in your secondary school. You could use your experiences to write a blog piece for your school's website about what it's like to be a new student in your school and where students can go to for help and support should they need it, including your Anti-Bullying Ambassador team!

UPDATE YOUR VIRTUAL NOTICEBOARD_

Does your school have an Anti-Bullying Ambassador noticeboard? Why not put this information online? Does your school's website have an area dedicated to anti-bullying and your work? If not, ask your staff lead for help in moving your noticeboard's information here. Ensure that this is up to date so that Year 6s can find out all about you and anti-bullying before they start in September.school

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CREATE A WELCOME VIDEO_

Knowing a friendly face can go a long way to making a new student feel welcome. So why not create a video where Year 6s can get to know the whole Anti-Bullying Ambassador team! You can introduce yourselves, explain what your role is and how they can identify you in school. Your staff lead can help you get this video out to the link primary schools. We've provided an idea of how to start your video below:

If you're coming to XXXX secondary school in September, hello! We're so excited for you to join our school. We're the Anti-Bullying Ambassadors and we're here to ensure that bullying behaviour doesn't happen in our school, that you have someone to talk to if it does and to ensure that every young person feels happy in our school. You can identify us by our green Anti-Bullying Ambassador badges and can find us [insert if you have a lunch time club/drop-in space etc]. We know that moving to a new school at this time must feel very strange and perhaps a bit scary but we're here to make sure that you at least know some friendly faces when you get here! We'll see you in September!

START PLANNING FOR SEPTEMBER_

How are you going to ensure that new Year 7s in your school feel supported and welcomed once you're back in school in September? What kind of activities can they expect to take part in and how will you and your team be involved? We've got loads of ideas to get you started in our [guide](#) on how to support new Year 7s at the start of term.

Remember, it's been a strange and uncertain time for us all recently. You might not have been in school for a while and new Year 7s may be experiencing a very different kind of summer term as they prepare to leave primary school. They may therefore be feeling even more nervous than usual about transitioning to secondary school. These activities and your actions, no matter how small, will make a real and lasting difference! Remember to be kind to each other and if you're worried or concerned yourself about returning to school, talk to someone you trust, whether this is a teacher, friend or parent.

If you're a trained Anti-Bullying Ambassador and planning to do any of these activities, make sure that you're keeping your staff lead up to date with your plans. They're in touch with our Aftercare team who can help and support you with your virtual transition day activities!

THE DIANA AWARD CRISIS MESSENGER

The Diana Award Crisis Messenger provides free, 24/7 crisis support across the UK - simply text **DA** to **85258** and trained volunteers will listen to how you are feeling and help you think through the next step towards feeling better.

Don't forget to also check out our [Badges page](#) and our [Resource Centre](#) for more inspiration for your anti-bullying work! Good luck!

We're proud to be the only charity set up in memory of Diana, Princess of Wales and her belief that young people have the power to change the world. It's a big mission but there are two things within it that we focus our charity's efforts on – young people and change.

Throughout all of our programmes and initiatives 'change' for and by young people is central, including our anti-bullying work which encourages change in attitudes and behaviours.

We hope you found this resource useful and wish you all the best in your anti-bullying journey. If you would like to help us create more resources and train even more Anti-Bullying Ambassadors you can make a £5 donation by texting CHANGE 5 to 70470 or visit diana-award.org.uk/donate

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