



In partnership with
Lincolnshire Parent
Carer Forum

Moving on from Special School

Quick Guide for Parents and Carers

Most children and young people with special educational needs attend inclusive classes in their local school and every year students successfully make the transition from special to mainstream school in Lincolnshire. With the appropriate support, they go on to thrive academically, learn important life skills, and develop their independence in preparation for adulthood.

Depending on their individual learning needs, some children and young people benefit from a specialised setting for a portion or all their education. As a parent, you may decide your child is now ready to make the step to mainstream school because of the progress they have made and is ready for a wider educational experience. The school or other professional may also suggest a move following regular review of your child's needs and outcomes achieved.



In Lincolnshire, we are committed to making sure that when a step into mainstream school is planned, the experience is as positive as possible, without ever putting pressure on a family to make this move as we recognise that you know your child the best.

There are 5 key steps involved in planning for your child to step into mainstream:

1 Considering a move

Both you and your child's special school can suggest a step into mainstream when you feel they are ready for a wider educational experience. This plan can be raised at your child's **Annual Review** as something that could happen in the future, or you can suggest a **transition sooner** (outside the Annual Review) where your child's needs will be better met in a mainstream school.

Through these discussions, your child's special school **SENDco** will refer to the **needs assessment** information supported by the '**Valuing SEND**' tool to help you make an informed decision about a move to mainstream. Your **child's views** will also be very important.

In addition, your child's **SEND caseworker**, or a caseworker from the transitions team, will offer you more advice about how your child's needs could be best met in an **inclusive mainstream school**.

2 Enrolling in mainstream school

Once you and your child have decided on a step into mainstream, your child's special school SENDco or headteacher will contact the **Pupil Reintegration Team** at Lincolnshire County Council. They will invite a Pupil Reintegration Team officer to come out to the school to meet with you and discuss what **type of mainstream school** you are looking for.

No consult paperwork will be sent at this point. The Pupil Reintegration Team will instead contact the mainstream school that you have in mind to confirm availability and the next steps for your child's enrolment. The Pupil Reintegration

Team will confirm with you once a mainstream school place has been agreed, at first just for a **trial period**.

3

Planning a smooth transition

To ensure the move to mainstream school is as positive as possible, we will organise a **transitions meeting**. This can be held at either the mainstream school or the special school, whichever you prefer.

The purpose of the transition meeting will be to set out some agreements so that everyone knows what everyone else is doing to ensure the move is a success. Everything, from the new uniform and how to get to the school, to what support will be provided so that your child feels **safe and supported** at their mainstream school, will be planned out.

You may also wish to do your **own research**, such as visiting the school or speaking to other families with children who attend the school to better understand their experience.

4

Progress reviews and 'dual registration'

Once your child has started their move to mainstream, the **Pupil Reintegration Team** will regularly check-in on how things are going and will arrange a **review** of the transition plan **every six weeks**.

At any point, you have the option for your child to return to their special school. Equally, you may want to try another mainstream school and the Pupil Reintegration Team officer will support this as well.

For the **first six months**, your child will be **'dual registered'** at both the special and mainstream schools, which means that your child's place at the special school will be saved, and they can return if necessary. After the 6 months, only when you are fully confident that your child's needs are being met in mainstream, your child will be removed from the special school register.

5

A successful transition

At the end of the transition period, the special school will hold a **review** of the current situation to ensure all parties, and importantly you and your child, are happy with the arrangement. This review will be supported by your **SEND Caseworker** along with the **Pupil Reintegration Team**, to confirm the ongoing support provision needed to meet your child's needs in their new mainstream school, or agree a return to special school, if necessary.

If a permanent move to mainstream is agreed, the **Education, Health and Care Plan** will be updated to reflect the change in school. The headteacher of the mainstream school will receive the **consult paperwork** so that the mainstream setting can now be **named in Section F**. By this point, we will know exactly what support your child needs to thrive and the revised plan and resourcing reflects that.

Over the longer term, we will continue to have **regular touchpoints** with you, as well as continuously monitor your child's progress to reach their full potential and desired outcomes as part of the 'Assess, Plan, Do, Review' cycle.

A few examples of successful transition in Lincolnshire:

Ben has Asperger's syndrome and moved to a mainstream school in year 7. He has now achieved 6 high grade GCSEs and is now studying for A Levels in Physics, Maths and DT. He is hoping to study mechanical engineering at university.



Ben
age 17

"The small things really mattered during the transition and both schools paid attention to these things" (Parent/Carer)

Emma has cerebral palsy. In year 6, she began a dual registered placement with a special school, until she fully returned to mainstream school in year 7. When she left school, she attended college and then went on to complete and internship at a nursing home, an apprenticeship at MENCAP and now plays a significant role in Lincolnshire Young Voices.



Emma
age 24

For more information about moving on from special school, please contact:



Lincolnshire County Council - XXX



Phone number XXX

Email XXX

Address XXX



Alternatively, you can speak to the Lincolnshire Parent Carer Forum at admin@lincspcf.org.