

TRANSITION FROM PRIMARY TO SECONDARY SCHOOL

Glasheen Boys' School (Last Reviewed June 2017)

This information has been put together for the benefit of 6th Class Pupils and their parents, as they prepare to move from primary to secondary school. We hope that it will be helpful. Bear in mind, that the Principal, 6th Class teacher/s and our Home School Community Liaison (HSCL)Teacher, are also very happy to give any advice that may be required. Please don't hesitate to ask.

At Glasheen Boys' School, we want to ensure a smooth transition from Primary to Secondary school. Change can be difficult but it doesn't have to be. We hope that with the preparation for secondary school that is delivered in Glasheen School, the boys can confidently look forward to their new and exciting beginnings.

(i) Information Meeting in Glasheen:

For the past number of years, Glasheen Boys' School hosts an **Information Meeting for the Parents of our 6th Class Boys**, in September of each year, giving helpful information and advice, in relation to the application procedures for various secondary schools. This is in advance of the deadlines by which applications must be submitted, by the parent, directly to the relevant secondary schools.

(ii) Helpful Points to Note for Parents:

Each school has different criteria. Some have Round 1, Round 2 and Round 3 offers

1. You MUST send the **application directly to the secondary school.**
2. **Attend the Open Nights** of schools you are interested in.
3. We have links with all of the local secondary schools but if your son is interested in attending **a school outside the area** (for example, Carrigaline, Douglas, Ballincollig, Glanmire etc.), you must make enquiries yourself, hand in the application and so on.
4. The application MUST be in on time, before the closing date. Do NOT assume you are guaranteed a place, if you have another son in the school. If your application is not submitted on time, your son is likely to be on a waiting list.
5. If living a long way from the school of your choice, **have a 2nd option.**
6. Do NOT accept / hold places in more than one school. Many schools will be in contact with one another and will certainly be in contact with us.

7. **Keep us updated**, so we can do our level best. You can email the school email, or whatever is easier for you. STAY CALM.

8. We have excellent **links with the secondary schools**.

9. We will be running the **Transition to Secondary School Programme during Term 3** for all of our pupils.

10. We will be linking in with all of the secondary schools during Term 3, to ensure a smooth transition.

(iii) **Visits From Secondary School Representatives:**

There is very good co-operation between Glasheen School and the secondary schools in the local area. **Each September, Representatives from each secondary school come to 6th Class** (and sometimes 5th class), to speak to the boys about the important points to be aware of in relation to the transition. Each representative gives brochures containing advice for parents and the dates for **Open Nights**, for parents also.

(iv) **Open Nights in Secondary Schools:**

Open Nights are normally held in the various secondary schools, in September of each year. Parents of pupils in 6th Class (and sometimes 5th or 4th Class), can attend these Open Nights, with their sons.

(v) **Spend a Day as a First Year Programme:**

Each year, our 4th & 5th Class boys are invited to local secondary schools, accompanied by their teachers, to 'spend a day as a 1st Year'. This gives the boys an idea of what it is like to be in secondary school.

(vi) **School Completion Project in Glasheen:**

The '**School Completion Project (SCP)**' aims to keep as many children happily in the education system, as possible. Glasheen is very fortunate to have the services of the SCP, on campus. Each year the sixth class boys partake in a '**Transition to Secondary' programme**', run by the SCP. The programme can change slightly each year to suit the needs of the children. Usually the programme consists of three lessons.

The first lesson looks at the emotional aspect of the change for the boys, from the familiar to the unfamiliar. The hopes and fears of the children are carefully listened to and noted at this stage.

The second lesson usually involves a drama. The group acts out a range of possible real life scenarios based on the childrens' hopes and fears from lesson one. In this way, the boys learn strategies to deal with possible future situations with more confidence and self- assurance.

The final session is a practical lesson about the subjects, timetables, lockers, day/week structure, school staff etc. etc. It aims to inform the

children of the basic information required to navigate the school day and to instruct on where to go and what to do, should a problem arise.

(vii) **Further Support:**

Transition to Secondary School is also, addressed during our 'Drug Awareness Program', which we deliver to 6th Class each year. This very much focused on Transition to Secondary School and how to deal with Peer Pressure.

(viii) **Smooth Transition:**

To further facilitate a smooth transition for all involved, there is usually contact with secondary schools in May/June, immediately prior to the pupils starting in secondary school. Where appropriate, Special Education Needs Teachers or the Home, School, Community Liaison (HSCL), can bring a child to the secondary school with the parents. This way the child and the parents can see the inside of the school and meet key members of school staff, in order to enable the child and the parents to feel more confident about the change.

SCP also works on an individual basis with certain boys who may be in need of greater assistance in this area. The HSCL, is always readily available to help parents also. The HSCL has links with other secondary schools and helps parents in many ways. In the past, the HSCL has organised translations for parents who don't speak English fluently. The HSCL also checks in with the secondary schools to monitor the progress of some children and helps the secondary school as much as possible to accommodate all new pupils.

All the secondary schools in the area are very happy to have parents call to the school in advance of registering their son. So there is no need to be shy! Parents should feel relaxed about contacting a prospective secondary school. If you are not, then the HSCL or the principal of Glasheen will be happy to talk with you.

Hopefully this information has reassured parents about the transition to secondary school. The most important thing to realise, if there are any doubts however, is that the staff encourages you to approach us with your queries. We're here to support your son and can assure you that we will always do everything in our power to support each and every pupil in our care, in Glasheen Boys' School.

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