

Discovery Academy Transition Plans

Times of transition can be exciting and positive; however, they can also be very challenging and anxiety inducing for some young people and their families. At Discovery we want to ensure that all children, young people and their families are supported and that everybody works together and plans are in place to make the move to Discovery as smooth possible.

What does this mean for our children, young people and their families?

- Once your child's place has been confirmed at Discovery, a welcome pack will be sent through which provides details about Discovery life, organisation and general practices.
- Discovery staff will contact parents/carers to arrange a home or school visit to meet the child, young person and their family. We want to get to know the children and the families, find out what they enjoy, find out what they are looking forward to and discuss any concerns. Photos and building updates will also be shared at these meetings to help children visualise their new setting.
- It is important to us that the children, young people and their families have an opportunity to give their views and preferences and participate in their transition planning. We put the child at the centre of what we do and the meeting provides an opportunity to build on their interests, strengths and motivations as well as addressing their needs. Staff will also support with the completion of admissions forms and the gathering of information around any medical needs.
- Good communication and a consistent approach between home and school is important to us. Staff will provide clear information about the transition process, including transport arrangements, suggesting useful strategies, for example countdown calendars, to assist in reducing any anxieties.
- Unfortunately, following a recent update from the building contractors, the completion date for Discovery is not until the end of July. We are therefore unable to host an open day prior to the start of the academic year. This will now take place on **Thursday 15th September** and will provide an opportunity for children, families and key workers to visit Discovery Academy, meet the teams and gain a better understanding about our vision, ethos and values.
- Discovery will officially open for pupils to begin their transition on **Monday 19th September 2022**. During the pre-opening two weeks, staff will be preparing to welcome all of our children and young people. **Friday 9th September** will provide an opportunity for teachers and their teams to visit the children who will be in their class. Teachers will be in touch with families on **Monday 5th September** to arrange a convenient time. This meeting can take place virtually if preferred.

What does this mean for our feeder schools?

- In addition to speaking with children and families, Discovery staff will contact feeder schools to ensure the child's needs are discussed, key information shared and up to date reports have been passed on. This will provide an opportunity to discuss and share the transition plan.
- We look forward to working closely with feeder schools to discuss the support currently in place for the children and young people, with examples of successful strategies used.

Our multi-agency approach:

- We aim to establish good communication across relevant agencies involved.
- Share information with all relevant agencies working with the child or young person.
- Contact all relevant services as early as possible to identify and plan for individual's needs.

In the meantime, should you have any questions or enquiries please email discoveryacademy@nexusmat.org

