

EIS Advice on Transition Arrangements for from P7 to S1 (Special Education)

The updated Scottish Government guidance also makes provision for Secondary schools to consider offering some level of 'in-person' P7-S1 transition in June to supplement online transmission activities.

The EIS recommends that decisions about the level and nature of the 'in-person' transition support should be made on a collegiate basis, with full involvement of the school staff from both settings and risk assessed with due regard to the protection level in which each setting is based.

In planning transition visits, **a rigorous risk assessment should be conducted and appropriate risk mitigation measures adopted.** The guidance makes the following recommendations to inform practice:

- the number of young people involved in each visit should be kept as low as possible;
- risk assessments should be conducted in accordance with the guidance and mitigations in place in Secondary schools;
- where possible, schools should plan for visits to take place outdoors to reduce the potential for transmission of the virus;
- unless absolutely necessary to the wellbeing of the children involved, Primary school staff and other adults (including parents) should not accompany P7 pupils on transition visits; and
- careful consideration should be given to the groupings of young people attending for visits to reduce the potential of transmission of the virus.

In the context of Special Education, the individual needs of the children involved would also require to be considered in determining whether an enhanced 'in-person' transition is necessary and factored into the assessment of risk. Appropriate risk mitigation measures should be identified to address the risks presented and appropriate arrangements made on this basis.

Transition visits should not take place if there is an outbreak of COVID-19 in either the Primary or the Secondary school involved.

Education Scotland has developed a resource to support transitions during COVID restrictions: [Transitions in 2020](#)