



Parkside Middle School Frequently Asked Transition Questions

Under normal circumstances, I visit many of the first schools with a group of year 6 pupils to hold a 'Question and Answer' session. Below are a selection of questions we are frequently asked by year 4 pupils, with our answers. I hope they are useful and stop you worrying! Mrs Cox 😊

What happens if I get lost?

Expect to get lost at least once, most new staff do too! The most important thing is not to worry. There are staff all over the building and lots of helpful pupils from other year groups. Just ask and you will be ok.

If I'm worried about something, what do I do?

Everyone worries about things now and again. Make sure you speak to someone if you are worried. Your class-teacher is the best person. Each class also has a 'Worry Box', so you can always write it down if you prefer. Just don't keep it to yourself, as that often makes it worse!

Will I be in a class with other children from my first school?

You will have some children from your first school with you in your class. Larger cohorts will be split between the 5 classes, smaller cohorts will be either split between a couple of classes or kept together.

Will I be with the same teacher all day?

You are more class-based in year 5 than any other year group and will have quite a few lessons with your class-teacher. However, you may have some lessons with different teachers e.g. PE, computing

Will all my lessons be with my class?

You will have all lessons with your class, apart from maths and English, where you will be taught in smaller groups. You are still likely to be with some pupils from your class and previous first school.

How do I find the right room for my lesson?

All the rooms are numbered and it is written outside every classroom. You will be collected to start with, if you need to get to another room. Don't worry, as pupils in year 6, 7 and 8 will also be trying to find the right room in September and staff will be around to direct you to the right room. Just ask!

What happens if I need the toilet?

If you need the toilet in a lesson you must ask. Toilets for year 5 are upstairs by the main staircase. We do try to discourage you using toilets in the middle of a lesson, as it disrupts your learning. Try to go at break or lunchtime if you can. Use the downstairs toilets (by the canteen) during break-times.

How do I know what lessons I've got?

You will be given a copy of your timetable to stick to the back of your planner when you start Parkside. This will tell you what lessons you have each day, the room and the teacher. Most year 5 classes also display a visual timetable for each day.

Will the work be hard when I move to middle school?

The work will be a bit harder when you move to middle school, but no different to moving from year 3 to 4 in your first school. It would be really boring to cover the same work at the same level again! Just remember to ask if you are struggling, so your teacher can help you in that lesson.

What can I eat at break-time?

At break-time you can either visit 'Tuck' in the canteen or bring your own snack. To get tuck you have to be in the queue by 11:10am. In September, Tuck can get very busy, so we always suggest you have an emergency snack in your bag, just in case!

What kind of trips will I go on at Parkside?

There are lots of different trips organised in school, they are not the same every year, but will link to your learning. In year 5, you might visit the Birmingham Museum and Blackwell Outdoor Adventure Centre. We also have Inspiration Days and events like Roald Dahl Day to enjoy!

What happens if I get stuck on my homework?

Most homework is set with a week to complete, it is important that you speak to your teacher for help, before the work is due to be handed in. There is a daily Homework Club run on the bottom corridor from 12:30-1pm, if you need time to do your homework or help from a teacher. If you have worked really hard at home for 30 minutes and have not finished, ask a parent to write a quick note in your planner to your teacher.

Am I allowed to bring a mobile phone to school?

You are allowed to bring a mobile phone, but only if you really need it! Phones must be switched off on school grounds and kept out of sight. Phones can be handed into the school office for safe keeping during the day.

Where will I keep my stuff?

You will each have a locker to keep your stuff. You will need to get your school bag, PE kit, lunch bag and coat in, so think carefully about the size of your school bag. Some of the school bags are lovely, but huge!

What should I take into class?

In a morning, you will need to take your Parkside planner, pencil case and reading book into class. You should have in your pencil case: a pencil, handwriting pen, green pen, ruler, rubber and pencil sharpener. Your own whiteboard pen is really useful too! It is also a good idea to have an A4 zip folder to carry everything around in.

Will I get a detention?

Just because you are moving to middle school doesn't mean you are suddenly going to start getting detentions! Detentions at Parkside are very rare! All schools, like your first school, have rules and Parkside is no different. If you are amazing and work really hard (which I know you will) there will be lots of rewards. If you don't follow the rules or don't work hard, there will be sanctions. Rewards and sanctions will be explained to you when you start Parkside – most will be similar to your first school!

Can I wear anything in my hair?

All hair accessories need to be small and plain. We do not allow large colourful accessories like JoJo bows and flower headbands – save these for weekends!

Do I need a lock for my locker? Where do I keep my locker key?

It is up to you whether you put a padlock onto your locker. We would ask you to give the combination or spare key to your class-teacher, in case you forget it! If you choose a combination lock, please make sure you know how to use it – as it is very easy to accidentally change the combination and then you won't be able to get into your locker! Most pupils have a padlock with a key and keep their key on a lanyard. Any lanyard is allowed a key and another small personal item only.

Padlocks information for parents and carers: Very small (like a suitcase padlock) and very large (like a shed padlock) will not fit the lockers.

How long will it take me to settle into middle school?

Most of you will settle into middle school life, by the end of the first week! A few of you will take a bit longer, don't worry about this – everyone is different and you will eventually settle! We'll continue to help you with this.

If after reading these FAQ you are still worried about something, make sure you write it into your 'Moving on' Transition Booklet. Your question will then be answered by your class-teacher on your Induction Day in September. We can answer most things! 😊

What year 5 pupils have to say about moving to Parkside Middle School:

I was worried about the size of the school, but you soon get used to it!
Dodford First pupil

I felt weird because I didn't know what to expect, the lessons are a bit harder, but that's a good thing!
St. Peter's pupil

At first it was all strange and I was anxious, but my classmates and friends helped me get through it. Now I feel very happy here.
Lickey End pupil

At first it felt weird because I was in the same building, but I soon got used to a new school!
Meadows First pupil

I felt a bit nervous about moving schools, but I made lots of new friends quickly.
Sidemoor First pupil

I was a bit nervous at first because of how small Fairfield is, as I settled in, I made a lot of new friends and easily got used to it!
Fairfield First pupil