Armadale Primary School



ELC-Primary 1 Transition

Draft: November 2026
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Transition from Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) to Primary 1

Our Commitment

At Armadale Primary School, we recognise that starting Primary 1 is an important milestone for children and their families. We are committed to ensuring that every child experiences a positive, supportive and successful transition from nursery to school.

Our transition programme is carefully planned to help children become familiar with their new environment, develop confidence, build relationships with staff and peers, and feel excited about beginning their learning journey in Primary 1. We work in partnership with families, nursery staff and other professionals to ensure that each child receives the support they need.

Our Transition Principles

We aim to:

- Place the wellbeing of children at the centre of all transition planning.
- Build positive relationships between children, families and school staff.
- Ensure children become familiar with the school environment before starting Primary 1.
- Share information effectively between nursery and school staff to support continuity in learning and wellbeing.
- Provide enhanced transition arrangements where additional support may be required.
- Work closely with parents and carers throughout the transition process.

How We Support Transition

Getting to Know the School

From the spring term onwards, children are provided with opportunities to become familiar with school life through:

- Visits to the school building, classrooms, playgrounds and dinner hall.
- Opportunities to play in the school playground during the school day.
- Photographic social stories introducing key areas of the school.
- Participation in school events and celebrations where appropriate.
- Opportunities to experience lunch in the dinner hall.

These experiences help children become comfortable with their new surroundings before they begin Primary 1.

Building Relationships

We believe that positive relationships are key to a successful start in school. Children are supported through:

- Visits from Primary 1 teachers and key members of staff to nursery settings.
- Story sessions and informal activities with school staff.
- A Primary 1 buddy system, where older pupils support younger children as they settle into school.
- Opportunities to meet their teacher and classmates.

The buddy programme helps children develop confidence and provides a familiar face when they begin school.

Supporting Families

Parents and carers play a vital role in the transition process. We support families through:

- A dedicated Primary 1 transition SWAY that is regularly updated.
- Parent visits to classrooms and learning areas.
- Informal drop-in opportunities where families can meet staff and ask questions.
- A Primary 1 information session and "Meet the Teacher" event.
- Induction packs containing information about school routines, key dates and expectations.
- An open-door approach that encourages communication between home and school.

We aim to ensure that families feel informed, supported and involved throughout the transition process.

Sharing Information

To ensure continuity of learning and wellbeing, Primary 1 teachers work closely with ELC staff. This includes:

- Professional discussions between nursery key workers and Primary 1 teachers.
- Sharing information about children's strengths, interests and next steps in learning.
- Joint planning where additional support may be required.
- Enhanced transition meetings for children with identified support needs.

This collaborative approach helps us meet the needs of every child from the very beginning of Primary 1.

Additional Support

We recognise that some children may require further support during transition. For these children we may provide:

- Additional visits to school.
- Individualised transition plans.
- Enhanced transition meetings involving parents and professionals.
- Personalised social stories and visual supports.
- Opportunities to meet key staff in advance of starting school.

Support arrangements are planned collaboratively with families and relevant professionals to ensure each child feels safe, confident and ready to learn.

Working Together

Successful transitions happen when children, families, nursery staff and school staff work together. We value the knowledge parents and carers have of their child and encourage open communication throughout the transition process.

If you have any questions or concerns about your child's move to Primary 1, we encourage you to speak with a member of our leadership team. Together, we will ensure that your child feels welcomed, supported and ready to thrive as they begin their journey at Armadale Primary School.