Primary PGCE

Secondary Task Pack 2022-2023



Updated August 2023

Overview:

During the Spring term of your PGCE year you will have three days where you will consider transition from Key Stage Two to Key Stage Three. An overview can be found at http://www.sec-ed.co.uk/best-practice/key-stage-3-year-6-to-7-transition/

The tasks in this booklet ask you to contrast the work in a primary and secondary so you need to ensure that you are familiar with them in your primary setting before moving to your secondary placement.

Most secondary schools teach in discrete subject areas. You might find it useful to choose two subjects: one core and one foundation subject to study in more detail.

Task		Rationale of task
1	The Environment	To recognise the role of the environment and the teaching staff in supporting learning
2	Expectations	To identify the differences between the expectations of pupils in primary and secondary school.
3	Planning	To know which the key documents are to use in planning for Key Stage 3. To know what provision is statutory for all pupils.
4	Adapting Learning	To understand how the needs of different pupils are met in a secondary school.
5	Assessment of Learning	To understand how pupils are assessed in secondary education
6	Behaviour management	To understand how pupils are motivated to behave well
7	Implications for Primary Teachers.	To be able to use the knowledge gained in the high school to support children in Year 6

After this focus:

- It is expected that you will have an understanding of secondary schooling, be able to reflect on how pupil transition from KS2 to KS3 and identify the role of the adult in learning.
- Be aware of the assessment practices in secondary education and how this information is used to inform planning
- Be aware of the different environment and the role of the teacher in secondary education
- Task six is an impact sheet – please ensure that you summarise the experiences you have had.

Task One: The Environment
What are the Key Differences between the School and Classroom Environment?

- Using your own experience in the primary school and through observation or discussion with teachers at the high school compare the classroom environments (choose two secondary classes, one core and one foundation) look for similarities and differences between the primary and secondary school.
- Contrast the organisation of pupils within the classroom and the ways in which they access learning.
- Think about the classroom layout and the displays, are there working walls, pupils' work, displays?

Task Two: Expectations:
Identify how the school establishes starting points for pupils in one core and one other subject and to consider what experiences children have?

- What are the expectations of pupils in terms of their personal organisation and responsibility both in lessons and outside lesson e.g. before and after school, in corridors, during lunch or break-times?
- Consider the national curriculum for the core subjects you have chosen how does the secondary curriculum differ from the primary curriculum?
- How does the secondary school develop the national curriculum into long, medium and short-term plans?https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/381754/SECONDARY_national_curriculum.pdf.
- Do all children have access to all aspects of the curriculum in key stage 3. Are there any differences between groups of pupils in terms of access to the curriculum?
- How are teaching assistants used across the day?

Task Three: Planning
Consider differences and similarities in planning in a secondary and primary school?

- Is the main teaching part of the lesson structured in the same way in secondary and primary?
- Do the pupils access the learning in a different way?
- Contrast the subject approach in primary and secondary for the core subjects you have chosen. What are the differences and similarities in the teaching and learning?
- How does the teacher allocate their time during the lesson, whole class, small group, individual conversations? Is this different from a primary setting?
- Are there other adults in the room? What is their role?

Task Four: Adapting Learning
How Does the School Meet the Needs of its More Able and Less Able Pupils?

Identify two more able, two less able and two SEN/D pupils in Key Stage 3.

- How does the secondary school meet their needs? Is this approach different from the primary schools?
- Speak with the teaching assistant within the lesson to discuss what support is offered.
- Some subjects/secondary schools group children by ability, is this a strategy you are experiencing? Is there a range of ability within the classroom how does the teacher accommodate this?
- If they are not grouped by ability? How does the teacher manage the learning of more able pupils?

Task Five: Assessing Pupils
How Do the Assessment Processes Differ between Primary and Secondary?

- Secondary schools will have access to SATs results for every pupil. What other data and information is used about the pupil to establish a starting point for learning. Consider one core and one foundation subject; Are they the same or different?
- Does the school use this information to group children in classes or the school? If so, how?
- Are there differences in the way that marking is done? How is feedback given?
- What are the similarities and differences between Primary and Secondary assessment?

Task Six: Behaviour Management:
How Do Behaviour Management Strategies Differ between Primary and Secondary?

- Controversially, it has been said that “primary schools teach students to be independent and secondary schools teach them not to be” (Dix, 2020). How is independence fostered in your placement?
- How is intrinsic and extrinsic motivation encouraged?
- What rewards are in place?
- What sanctions are in place?

Task Seven: Implications for Primary Teacher

- What key themes do you need to be considered in Year 6 to allow for a smooth transition to key stage 3?
- What activities are in place?
- What activities would pupils benefit from to prepare them?
- How could the transition be better managed?