

The TRANSITION from PRIMARY SCHOOL to HIGH SCHOOL

1. The Fear of the Unknown

High School is a total new school, a new culture, new teachers, a new principal, new fellow classmates, the uncertainty of how things are going to work and how he/she is going to adapt and fit in, can to be a great concern to some learners.

2. Senior to Junior Again

In Grade 7 your child was a senior, but he/she steps in as a baby into the new High School. Learners with a low self-esteem or learners who are struggling socially can be intimidated with a “big” High School (800 Learners plus).

3. Friendships

It is a challenge if your child moves to a High School where no of his/her Primary School friends enroll at the same school. He/she has to find his/her feet to make new friends and to find a place where, “I belong to.” Reserved learners will struggle with the latter in the new school. Some learners struggle with the new situation and they can feel threatened by the new learners and forming new friendships. This new life phase is characterized by where friendships play a bigger part in the learner’s life. The Bible does not mention for nothing 74 Bible verses on friendships. Friends are important in one’s life. Be aware of the friends your child is mixing with. Ask your child to invite his/her friends to your home in order to meet them.

4. Teachers

Your child has walked a mile with his/her Primary School teachers and he/she has built a reputation with them. This reputation, which also plays a part to form your child’s identity, is now absent in the High School. It must be built from scratch again in the High School.

5. Workload and Worktempo

The workload and worktempo are much bigger and faster in the High School. It is good advice to enroll your child into extra classes if he/she struggles in some subjects. It is also advisable to attend the extra classes in subjects where your child excel in to gain even more skills and to give extra attention in his/her strong points.

Parents can assist in the following ways:

➤ Talk

Cultivate from an early age a “*talking culture*” in the family set up. When children have the confidence to speak about challenges and difficulties at home, it will be easier for them to share hindrances at school. Parents’, whose children have an open conversation policy with their parents, will be well informed of their children’s situation at school. In this way parents can guide their children and be pro-active in action when challenges occur.

➤ Give Attention

Good advice here is to really give attention to your child’s challenges. LISTEN ATTENTIVELY when your child speaks to you even if it is not important to you, as a parent. What they share is valuable and remember that it is very important to your child, otherwise he/she would not have shared it with you. The child must be able to communicate with you the small challenges in order to share the bigger and more serious challenges in his/her life.

2.

➤ **Be Patient**

Parents want to solve children's challenges with good advice, but it is very important to listen attentively to them with understanding and empathy. After the latter comes the probable solution or advice as where to give immediately advice and a solution to the problem.

Above is a short, but relatively important guideline contributing to make the transition from Primary School to High School more smoothly and acceptable for your child. At KCS we will try our best to make this transition a blessing. KCS is a school that really cares and every child and person are unique and important in God's eyes at KCS.

Taken from and freely translated with my own contribution from the, "Vrouekeur 12 January 2018."

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