



P6 & P7 Transition Evening

February 2025

Survival



You have a right to life, good food, water, and to grow up healthy

Development



You have a right to an education and time to relax and play

Participation



You have a right to say how you feel, be listened to, and taken seriously

Protection



You have a right to be treated well and not be hurt by anyone

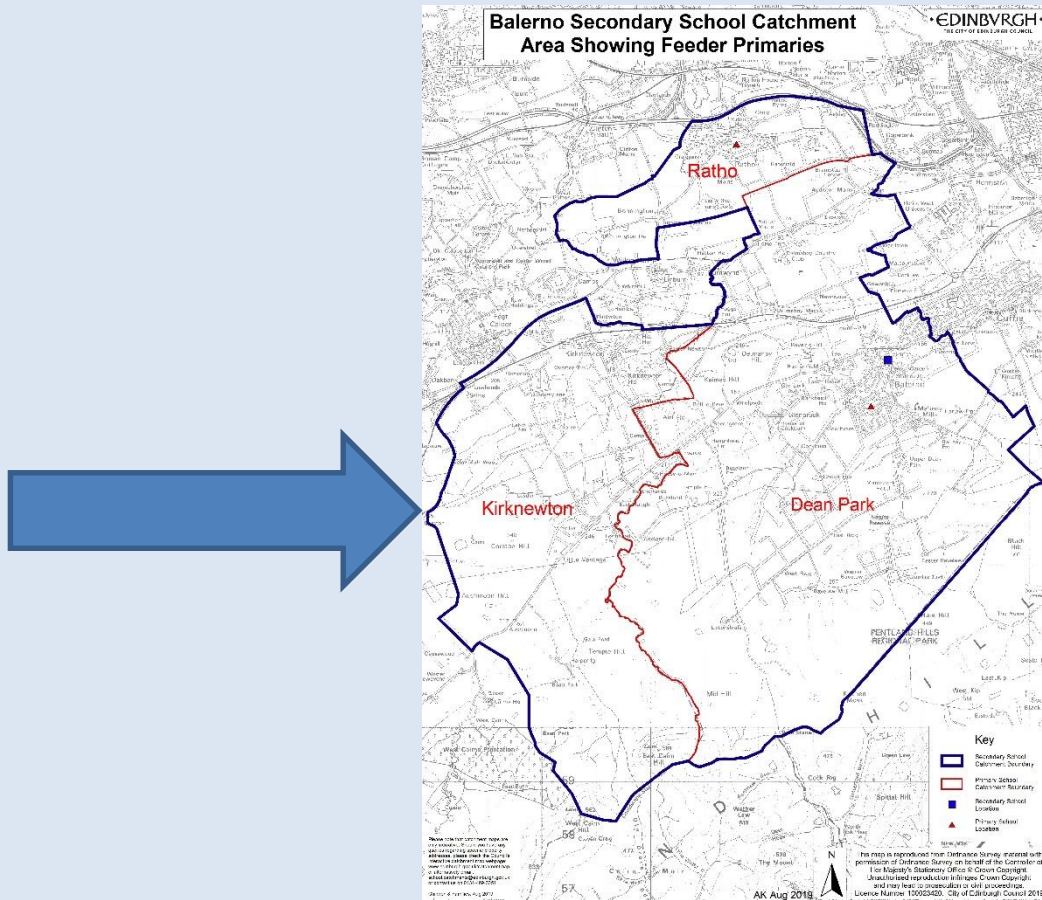


P6 & P7 Transition Evening

- A brief timeline of the application process
- Information on transition events with BCHS
- What I wish I'd known - this section will be informed by feedback from parents and students
- Parents Questions answered
- Learners Questions answered

Application Process

Balerno Community High School



Knowing children from the other 2 cluster primary schools, Ratho and Dean Park, has proven to be a big advantage for our P7 learners in previous years when moving up to High School

Application Process

As Balerno Community High School is the catchment school for Kirknewton Primary school, the City of Edinburgh council will automatically reserve a place for your child at Balerno High School. The allocation is made based on the address held on your child's school record. There is no need for parents to register for this process.

Edinburgh Council will send you an allocation letter in the November prior to your child's commencement at High School; this will invite you to complete an application for your child's place at Balerno High School. This application should be completed online at and should be completed before 24th December in the year before your child is due to start at secondary school.

www.edinburgh.gov.uk/placingrequest

Once your request has been granted, Edinburgh Council will send you a letter or email and will let your child's primary and secondary school know. This will be communicated to you usually by April of the year your child is due to start secondary school.

Learners with Support Needs

The 2000 Standards in Scotland's Schools Act states that children should attend mainstream schools, unless there are exceptional reasons not to do so. Balerno Community High School supports learners with additional support needs in a variety of ways, including through the use of the Bridge.

Who works in The Bridge?

Curricular Leader
Monique McIntosh

Pupil Support Officer
Ann Cormack

Pupil Support Assistant
Holly Rae

What is the Bridge?

It is a quiet place in the school to support pupils with learning and emotional regulation to help you feel calm and ready to learn. This is achieved by providing a nurturing educational environment and identifying topics of interest to the young people to support meaningful learning.

Who is it for?

The Bridge is designed to meet the needs of secondary school pupils who would benefit from a specialised curriculum in a small class setting, with a higher staff ratio than that of a mainstream school class. These young people have educational support needs linked to their emotional wellbeing. For example, they may feel too anxious to engage with learning in large mainstream classes, or struggle with self-regulation (managing their emotions, challenging behaviours). Places are allocated via a referral by the PSL. This will then be discussed by professionals and parents through the GIRFEC process and suitable supports will be put in place.

What do you do in The Bridge?

In The Bridge you might....

- take part in groups such as Nurture
- sit quietly and read
- complete learning tasks independently or with support
- talk to staff about how you are feeling (a 'check in')



Primary School/Secondary School links

We at Kirknewton Primary School are in regular communication with Balerno High School, as well as West Calder High School. If your child is moving to an alternative high school, we will communicate directly with them to organise the transition timeline for your learner. We have very good links with both Balerno High School and West Calder High School and work hard to ensure that our P7 pupils and families feel well supported through the transition process.

After the October holidays, we will begin to hold meetings and discussion with Balerno H.S to transfer information with regards to your children. Initial meetings will be concerned with Enhanced Transition, following that we will meet to transfer academic and other information to the High School. You will receive notification prior to this to enable you to agree to the data being transferred to the High School.

The High School will hold a P7 Open Evening in the first term, usually before the October holidays. This will give you and your child the opportunity to meet staff and have a really good look around the different departments of the High School.

Enhanced Transition

What is Enhanced Transition?

Enhanced transition is intended to provide additional support to learners who have additional support needs or are experiencing acute anxiety with regards to High School transition.

What does this involve?

We will work with parents and teachers to identify those learners who would benefit from enhanced transition. Parents will be kept fully informed about the enhanced transition events and will have the opportunity to discuss this with their young person prior to the visits themselves. We want our learners to feel comfortable to engage with this process and are always happy to discuss this with families.

Enhanced Transition

What happens on the visits?

The enhanced transition visits occur in February and May; there are 2 visits in total. Learners attend the High School for 2 mornings where they experience the opportunity to navigate their way round the school, meet the staff including the Guidance Staff, ask any questions or verbalise any concerns they may have and visit the **award** winning Riverside canteen (this is always a high point of the visit!)

From our previous experience, learners who have engaged with enhanced transition have found this to be a valuable experience which has supported them well in their move to the High School.

Transition Events

Month	Transition Event
October	P7 Open Evening
February	Enhanced Transition Visit 1
May	Enhanced Transition Visit 2
June	Parent Information Open Evening (prior to 3 day transition event)
June	3 day transition event – your young person will spend 3 days at the High School. They will have the opportunity to meet peers from cluster schools, use their timetable and can travel in on the school bus (supported by Primary School staff)

Parents will need to apply for a bus pass prior to August. There is more info on this on the next slide

Bus Travel

If you live in West Lothian, please see the link for details of the process and the form for West Lothian.

<https://www.westlothian.gov.uk/article/32244/Applications-for-Free-School-Transport>

For information, the form works in sections. It does not show completely until you have selected the Secondary school option. Normally S1 (this year's P7s), S5 and S6 pupils re-apply every year. Any other pupils will already have a pass which they can continue to use, so next year's S2, S3, S4 pupils will not need to re-apply unless they have lost their pass.

There are 2 different routes for the Kirknewton to Balerno High School.

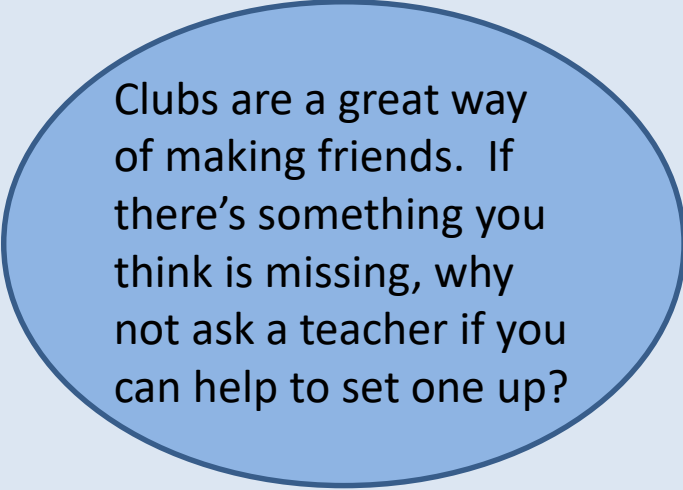
<https://westlothian.gov.uk/article/32574/Balerno-Community-High-School-Bus-Routes>

What I wish I'd Known!

- Different subjects – practical classes
- Breaks/lunches
- Social Media
- I pads - One Note, Teams, emails
- Homework & Time Management (timetables)
- Friendships
- Certificates for exceptional work
- Social Activities – lunch time clubs/after school clubs
- Peer Pressure
- PE – changing rooms/swimming

Here are just some of the extra-curricular clubs you can join in with at Balerno High School:

- Rights Respecting Schools
- Hockey
- Dance
- Art & Design
- Chess
- Guitar
- Netball
- Philosophy
- Film
- STEM
- Origami
- School Magazine

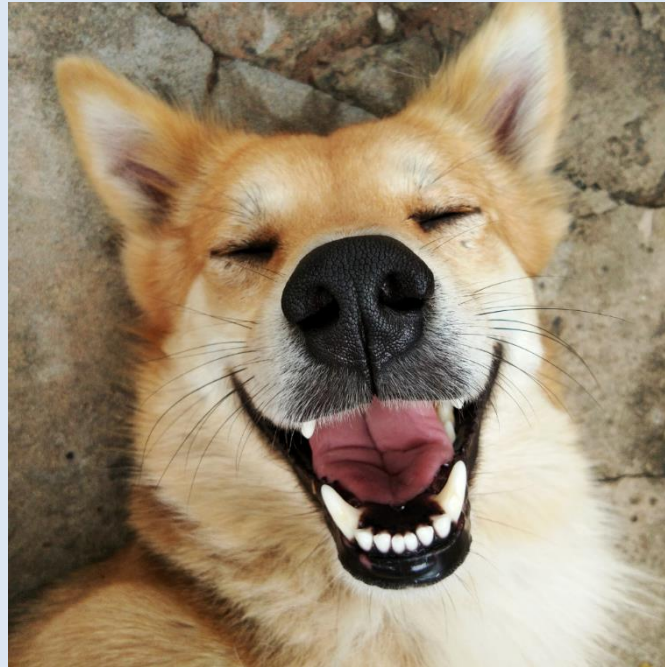


Clubs are a great way of making friends. If there's something you think is missing, why not ask a teacher if you can help to set one up?

There are many more options available, check out the Balerno High School website for more information.

<https://balernochs.wordpress.com/extra-curricular-activities/>

**When you
start the day
with a smile,
great things
happen.**



Parents Only

- Social Media – inappropriate content
- Vaping/anti-social behaviour
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/z4jdxg8>
- Lunchtimes – September onwards (assessed)
- Assessment – parent email – parents evening (March)
- Parent portal
- S1 “Residential”

Any Questions?