

Year 6 (2018/19) Partner Schools – Frequently Asked Questions

1. What does the announcement of the partner primary schools for Year 6 pupils mean for my child?

If you are the parent/carer of a child currently in Year 6 (who will start Year 7 in September 2019) the announcement of partner primary schools advises you which secondary school your child will attend in September 2019.

Previously children who sat the 11+ did not know which secondary school they would attend until around two-thirds of their way through Year 6. Last academic year the newly-elected Committee for Education, Sport & Culture made a commitment to advise Year 5 parents of their child's secondary school before the end of Year 5, i.e. around 14 months before the child starts at secondary school. This document was produced to answer any further questions, and has now been updated to reflect the fact that this cohort are now in Year 6.

Each of the four secondary schools will begin to accept all-ability year groups from September 2019. Following that change, we will begin to transition from four separate secondary schools to one school operating in two 11-18 colleges on different sites.

2. What if my child is currently in an 'out of catchment' school?

If your Year 6 child attends a primary school that is not the school they would attend based on catchment area, your child will move into the partner secondary school based on the primary school they currently attend.

If you wish them to move to a different secondary school you need to request a change. Information and guidelines on how these requests can be made, and under what circumstances they may be granted, will be published at www.gov.gg/partnerschools before the October half term this year. Such requests will not be accepted until 1st November and must be submitted by 5pm on Friday 11th January 2019.

3. Why have you changed from a catchment system?

A partner system provides improved opportunities for transition between primary and secondary schools. It allows the secondary school to work more closely with the primary schools that partner it, meaning that your child's transition to secondary education will be smoother. It also means that children are able to maintain the friendships they have formed at primary school.

4. The partner secondary school is different to where my other child/ren go but I want them to go to the same site. What are my options?

Out of partner school requests can be made. We will publish details on how to make such requests by the October half term at www.gov.gg/partnerschools (please see answer 2 above). Please note that the secondary schools all have limited capacity so we are unable to guarantee that requests will be granted.

5. Now I know which secondary school they will attend in Year 7, will my child stay there for the rest of their secondary education?

Not necessarily. Before the October half term we will announce which two of the current secondary school sites will be used for the two 11-18 colleges and we will publish a full transition plan for all current and future secondary school pupils. In developing this transition plan we are mindful of the need to protect the interests of today's students as well as securing an improved structure for the students of tomorrow.

6. What are the plans for secondary and post-16 education?

The States agreed at its January 2018 meeting that from the earliest date practicable secondary and post-16 education shall be organised as follows:

- Two 11 to 18 colleges or campuses, operating as one organisation, each with a principal but led by an Executive Head Teacher and a single Board of Governors;
- The College of Further Education operating as one organisation providing vocational, professional and technical education for full-time and part-time students, including apprentices, with the objective of integrating with the Institute of Health and Social Care Studies and the GTA University Centre as soon as practicable;
- St. Anne's School in Alderney; and
- Le Murier School and Les Voies School operating as Special Schools for students with special educational needs.

The States also agreed to devolve governance and greater operational responsibility to our schools and colleges (often referred to as 'local management'). This requires the outdated 1970 Education Law to be repealed and replaced.

7. Where will the two colleges be built and when will they be open?

The planned restructuring of secondary and post-16 education inevitably means extensive development of some school buildings. All four secondary school sites remain as potential locations for their two 11 to 18 successors. The Committee is researching all options and will announce the two sites by the October half term this year. These capital developments will then be taken to the States of Deliberation for approval.

8. What are the partner primary schools?

The partner schools for the current Year 6s are:

Primary School	Secondary School Site
Castel	Les Beaucamps
St Martin's	Les Beaucamps
Forest	Les Beaucamps
La Houquette	La Mare de Carteret
La Mare de Carteret	La Mare de Carteret
Vauvert	La Mare de Carteret
Hautes Capelles	St Sampson's
St Mary and St Michael	St Sampson's
Vale	St Sampson's
Amherst	Les Varendes
Notre Dame du Rosaire	Les Varendes

9. Will my child have the same opportunities whichever school they attend?

The Committee for Education, Sport & Culture will work with education professionals, including school leaders such as the recently-appointed Executive Head Teacher, to ensure that the curriculum provides for equality of opportunity and the best possible transition from four schools to one school in two 11-18 colleges.

10. How will it be better than what they have now?

The new system of all-ability schools will replace the 11+ and the concept of selection at 11. The 11+ was an unreliable means of dividing children unnecessarily and the previous and current States Assembly agreed that it should be replaced.

The ambition now is to pool best practice and resources to create a single organisation – one school in two colleges – which will put Guernsey in the best position to realise the twin objectives of all-ability schools: excellence and opportunity.

At the moment children have access to different courses and opportunities depending on which school they attend. Some schools are too small to offer the broad curriculum and opportunities which are available to students in larger schools. This is unsatisfactory and unnecessary.

In the future every student, regardless of which school he or she attends, will have access to the same broad curriculum and extra-curricular opportunities. Children will move with their friends and class mates from primary into secondary education in much the same way they moved with them from the infant to the junior section of primary school. Transition will be improved through the partnering of primary schools with secondary schools. Children and parents will know their secondary school at an earlier age.

We are also moving into a new era of collaboration between the 11 to 18 school and the College of Further Education. The terms of collaboration will be set out in a partnership agreement. The benefits of collaboration are so important that the need for a partnership agreement should be included in a new and long-overdue Education Law.

11. What are your plans for our children with special educational needs?

Pupils with special educational needs will be supported in secondary schools, or where it is in their best interests and where it best meets their needs they will attend Le Murier or Les Voies. Both these special schools work closely with our mainstream schools.

The period of transformation in education including the drafting of a new Education Law will provide an ideal opportunity to re-examine how in the future the Bailiwick could best support students with special educational needs and to ensure that such provision is consistent with the work which continues to evolve in relation to the States' Disability and Inclusion Strategy.

This calls for the Committee *for* Education, Sport & Culture to seek a closer working relationship with the Committees *for* Employment & Social Security and Health & Social Care.

Within the two colleges, there will continue to be provision for children with autism through the use of autism bases.

12. What are your plans for children in Alderney?

Children in Alderney will remain at St Anne's for both their primary and secondary phases.

The development of a new Education Law will create the space to discuss the sensitive issue of whether students in Alderney, or parents on their behalf, should have any legal right to transfer their education to Guernsey's all-ability, non-selective secondary school.

It is important that St. Anne's School should be able to benefit from some of the pooled expertise and economies of scale which will be available in the 'one school on two sites' model. This will

need to include access for staff to the widest possible range of opportunities for professional development.

Improving digital provision would assist the objective of closer collaboration with St. Anne's. Teleconferencing has the potential to allow students in Alderney further to broaden their studies and experiences while remaining on the Island.

13. What will happen to the children still in their selective intake at the Grammar School? i.e those children who in September 2019 will be in Year 8 and above at the Grammar School.

These children will continue to be educated as a selective intake until they have completed their GCSEs. Until the States have made the decision about which two sites to use, it is not possible to say whether this will always be at the Les Varendes site.

14. Other areas

The 11 to 18 school will operate on two sites offering sixth form studies on both sites. The College of Further Education will continue as a single, integrated organisation offering vocational, professional and technical courses for full-time and part-time students, including apprentices.

The number of students at each site will be in line with the average size of the highest-attaining comprehensive schools nationally. The schools may be larger than we are used to in Guernsey but they will maintain similar pupil to staff ratios, similar class sizes and the same focus on pastoral care and support. The presence of sixth form students as role models in an 11 to 18 school can have a positive effect on the ethos, discipline and pastoral care in a school.

All students are able to access scheduled buses and school buses for free. Our schools also have facilities for cycle parking, motor cycle parking and safe walking routes. Existing scheduled and school bus routes will be reviewed in conjunction with States' Traffic and Transport Services.

The quality and dedication of teachers and other staff are key to the success of the education system. Retaining and recruiting high quality staff must remain a priority in any transformation of the structure of education in the Bailiwick. There will be greater opportunity to work across all key stages in secondary education, including sixth form, which will maximise the chances of Guernsey developing, recruiting and retaining great teachers. There will be benefits to teachers in the firm commitment for more responsibility to be passed from the Education Office to the level of schools and colleges. Staff structures will be determined well in advance of any changes to the estate or relocation of staff.

15. I still have questions, where can I get more information?

If you have any further questions you can contact the Education Office by emailing educationfuture@gov.gg or by calling 01481 733017.