



Woldgate School

Of great merit, character & value

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Starting Year 7 at Woldgate

A guide to friendships and a confident transition

Scan the QR code or [read our prospectus online](#)

Choosing a secondary school means choosing a community where your child can learn, grow, and feel they belong. At Woldgate, we want every child to be known and cared for as an individual. Your child's interests, friendships, and support needs matter to us from the start.



How will my child make friends?

It is perfectly natural to feel nervous about starting secondary school, and friendships can be a big part of that worry. At Woldgate, our wide variety of lunchtime and after-school clubs helps pupils discover like-minded friends. Year 7 pupils also have a weekly morning form-time slot for enrichment clubs, choosing their activities each term. This gives them the opportunity to meet new peers and discover hidden talents.

Before joining Woldgate, pupils will be invited to share their interests on a friendship form, and our transition days offer plenty of opportunities to become familiar with the school and try the activities they can enjoy here. We will also offer bespoke events for pupils arriving alone or from smaller primary cohorts, helping them meet familiar faces before September.

Can my child tell you who they would like to be with?

Before your child joins us, the friendship form invites them to name up to three children they know and would feel comfortable with. We consider these preferences alongside advice from primary staff and individual needs. Preferences help us plan; they cannot guarantee a particular group allocation. We do ask that pupils keep choices private to avoid children feeling excluded. You are welcome to

share initial information at Open Evening. Preferences can be updated once school places are confirmed.

Personal support for your child

Familiar faces and someone to turn to

What if my child is joining alone or in a small group?

We will offer bespoke transition events for pupils arriving on their own or from smaller primary cohorts. These will help children meet others, explore Woldgate and begin building friendships before September. Please tell us if this applies to your child so that we can include them in the invitations.

What if my child feels particularly nervous?

For pupils who need extra reassurance, we will arrange peer mentor support and identify a key member of staff they can turn to. A familiar pupil can help with finding their way and getting involved; a named adult provides a clear route for asking questions and sharing worries. Please tell us early what helps your child feel secure.

What if friendships are difficult even with familiar pupils?

Support should reflect your child's needs, not simply how many children arrive from their primary school. Let us know if they find group situations difficult, have experienced friendship problems or would benefit from help joining an activity. We can discuss how enrichment, clubs, and personal support could help them build relationships.

How can we prepare together?

Practise packing a bag and getting organised the night before. Go through the journey to school and what to do if something goes wrong. Ask your child what excites them and what worries them, and share any concerns with us. Confidence develops through familiarity and opportunities to practise. There will be plenty of staff and pupils on hand to help. Our form tutors provide a familiar person to talk to and help pupils find their way around the school. The most important thing is to ask for help. After your child starts, keep talking about friendships, lessons, and social times. Please contact their tutor or the pastoral team if worries persist or change; you do not need to wait for a parents' evening.

Your transition questions answered

Working with families and primary schools

How will you get to know my child?

During the summer term, we visit primary schools and speak with Year 6 staff about each child's strengths, interests and support needs. Our welcome information includes a 'Getting to know me' form so pupils can share their own voice. Year 6 transition days take place in the final half term of summer, helping children become familiar with Woldgate before September.

What additional SEND transition is planned?

From February, SEND primary visits and personalised walk-arounds at quieter times will support individual preparation. During the summer term, we will hold a dedicated SEND transition morning followed by afternoon tea for families. We will also publish details of our SEND transition coffee mornings. Dates and invitations will be shared with families when these are confirmed.

What about dyslexia, autism, ADHD or an EHCP?

Our SENDCo, Mrs A Bramall, works with teachers, Learning Support and the pastoral team to plan support around individual needs. Pupil passports explain learning needs and helpful classroom adaptations. Please share primary support plans, successful strategies, and any concerns, including while an assessment is pending. For pupils with an EHCP, discuss existing provision and transition arrangements with the SENDCo. Contact sen@woldgate.net or 01759 302395.

How are wellbeing and bullying concerns addressed?

Pupils can seek help from their tutor, teachers, and the Care and Achievement team. Peer mentoring provides further reassurance. Please report bullying concerns promptly to the Care and Achievement Coordinator, who liaises with the Head of Care and Achievement and Head of School. Share concerns from primary school early so that we can plan support.

Daily life and practical questions

How will homework work?

Homework is set through Arbor, with instructions available to pupils. Families can use the Arbor Parent App to keep informed. Homework is introduced gradually at the start of Year 7. Pupils can ask for help if they are unsure; Learning Support offers homework support at break and lunchtime.

How will my child find their classrooms?

Form tutors explain pupils' timetables and the location of classrooms. Pupils are given a school map, and tutors, teachers, and older pupils help them find their way. Encourage your child to ask whenever they are unsure.

How do school meals work?

Pupils can buy food from the school café using the cashless payment system or bring a packed lunch. Families top up the meal account through the online payments link on the school website (SCOPAY). Please tell us about allergies or dietary requirements before your child starts.

What about medical needs, illness or accessibility?

Please discuss medical needs, allergies, medication, or access requirements with us before your child starts. Share existing plans from primary school. If your child needs medicine during the day, inform the office and hand it to Reception for safekeeping. A pupil who feels unwell at school should tell a member of staff; staff will contact families if collection is needed. Report illness absence to the office before 8.45am each day. Keep detailed medical information off the friendship form. Please note that we are a 'nut-free' school and all staff have received allergy awareness training.

Who can we contact or arrange to visit?

At Open Evening, ask for Miss Lindsey, Transition Lead, or the SEND and pastoral team. Parents and families are welcome to look around by appointment. Contact the school office on 01759 302395 or office@woldgate.net to arrange a visit or speak with the appropriate member of staff.

Friendship and transition form

Once your child's place at Woldgate is confirmed, you will receive a starter pack containing this form. The example below shows the information we ask for to help us plan class groupings and transition support.

Child's full name and current year group

Current primary school

Parent or carer name and preferred contact details

Children your child already knows

Name up to three children your child would feel comfortable with. Include surnames and primary schools. They may attend a different primary school. Please keep the choices private.

1 Full name and primary school

2 Full name and primary school

3 Full name and primary school

Friendships and reassurance

Please tick any that apply. It is fine if you are not yet sure.

- ☐ My child may be the only pupil joining from their primary school.
- ☐ Only a small number may be joining from their primary school.
- ☐ My child would welcome help meeting new people or joining activities.
- ☐ My child may benefit from a peer mentor or a named staff contact.
- ☐ I would like a private transition or SEND conversation.

What does your child enjoy and which activities would they like to try?

What would help your child feel confident about starting Year 7?

Please discuss sensitive concerns or detailed medical information privately. Responses are intended for transition planning with relevant school staff.