

YEAR 7 TO HIGH SCHOOL IN 2022



Parent Update Week 5, Term 2 – 2021

A focus on your child's learning

As you probably know, high schools differ from primary schools in their learning structure and schedule. Your child has had one class teacher and classroom for most of their lessons in primary school.

In high school, they will move between different classrooms and be taught by a wider range of teachers who are specialists in their fields.

Readiness for a more mature setting

We know from our pilot program that year 7s are well and truly ready for high school.

The pilot involves three public high schools that began welcoming year 7s in 2020 to provide us with early insights on the move. Having listened to the experiences of their students, families and staff, we know the vast majority of year 7s quickly settle into high school and benefit from the new learning and social opportunities it offers.

Pilot program students have told us they enjoy the independence, peer interactions and responsibilities of high school, which also reflects the experiences of students interstate. All other Australian states already teach year 7 in high school. Queensland and Western Australia made the move most recently in 2015.

High school learning content

All South Australian school students learn the Australian Curriculum. This will not change as year 7 moves to high school. Teachers will support your child to adjust to high school expectations and will help them to build confidence in their learning.

Many students in our pilot program acknowledged there was an expectation they would work hard and complete assignments on time in high school. Parents were proud of how their children rose to this challenge. Students also said they felt supported to achieve by their new high school teachers.

"My teachers make me feel very calm because they reassure me that I can do the work and I'm not going to fail," – pilot school student.

Access to specialist teachers and resources

Under the Australian Curriculum, year 7 is designed to be taught in a high school setting, with access to specialist resources such as fully equipped science laboratories, performing arts spaces, kitchens and design and technology equipment. Many high school teachers also have additional training in particular learning areas.

Beyond the classroom, high schools offer extra-curricular opportunities to extend your child's social, academic and physical learning, such as sports, debating, clubs and music groups.

"You've got teachers that are teaching subjects they specialise in, rather than in primary school it's one teacher," – pilot school parent.

Specialist teachers

Our high school teachers are trained and have access to evidence-based approaches and professional learning to teach adolescent students.

We are bringing more than 100 primary teachers into our high schools and offering them additional professional learning to prepare for the year 7 to high school move. Students and school communities will continue to benefit from their extensive accumulated knowledge of year 7 curriculum and teaching methods.

Our high school teachers are also being offered additional professional learning in the lead-up to the move, to ensure they are confident and ready to teach year 7s.

Where to find out more

Stay informed through your school and the Department for Education's website: www.education.sa.gov.au/7toHS

Or share your feedback with the project team by emailing: Year7toHS@sa.gov.au

