

## Quick Information Guides for Parents

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### **SNAPshot No 17** **Talking with Schools**

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## Communication

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Talking to schools is a very important part of supporting your child's education.

Many schools value the thoughts and opinions of parents and are glad to answer questions parents might have about their child's education. This SNAPshot suggests some questions you might ask your child's current or future school.

## Questions

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### Questions for all schools

- \* Does the nursery/school have dedicated Additional SN staff/teaching staff? What experience do they and staff generally have working with HAL?
- \* How does your nursery/school support its existing HAL to achieve their potential? Can you tell me about the strategies you are already using with your young people to ensure challenge and progression in their learning?
- \* How do you use GIRFme planning to support highly able learners? How do you ensure that plans are put into practice?
- \* Does the nursery/school take part in any national competitions or events in sport, music, art, literature, STEM?

### Questions for nursery

- \* If your nursery is using a play based approach, what does this mean for highly able learners?
- \* What liaison activities happen at transition time?

- \* Does the nursery have links with associated primary schools and how might they be used to support highly able learners?

## Questions for Primary

- \* What transition procedures are in place between nursery/primary; primary/secondary and year to year to ensure continuity in learning?
- \* How are SNSA results used to plan learning for highly able learners?
- \* Is it possible to work across the levels set out in Curriculum for Excellence?
- \* If your school is using an active learning or play based approach, what does this mean for highly able learners?
- \* Are there any specialist teachers involved in your nursery/school? If yes, do highly able learners have access to them if appropriate?

## Questions for Secondary

- \* Which subjects does the school usually offer at Higher and Advanced Higher? What links do you have with other secondary schools/colleges to access Higher/Advanced Higher in other subjects?
- \* Is it possible for young people to sit N5/Higher/AH early in order to ensure pace and challenge in particular subjects? What else do you offer to ensure pace and challenge for young people working ahead of their same-age peers?
- \* Does your school support young people in participating in National Youth Orchestra/Junior Conservatoire/Nuffield summer placements/Duke of Edinburgh/Scottish Youth Parliament?
- \* How does your school implement Maths Week Scotland, and how do you ensure that activities are challenging for highly able learners?

- \* Does your school have a coding club? Is there anything else you offer to support coding or other STEM activities?

## Moving Forward together

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Asking questions is a great way to find out what opportunities a school might offer for your child. However, it can also be a wonderful way to open a dialogue with the school and encourage them to think about the wide range of opportunities open to them to support highly able learners.