

Donaldson's School

Good practice: Support for children and young people at transition.

Staff at Donaldson's School, in discussion with young people identified the need to provide more support for ¹deaf school leavers. The young people who move on to training, work or college at 16 often feel marginalised and lack the confidence to make the most of the opportunities available to them. In particular the young people who use British Sign Language (BSL) as their first language are unable to access information and services.

The school identified a member of staff as transition coordinator who works closely with the young people to identify the barriers which prevent them moving on to and sustaining positive destinations. Together they created a Youth Committee, which gives young people the opportunity to plan and deliver events around the theme of moving on. Events are open to young people from Donaldson's School and deaf students from other establishments.

Young people participate in peer support groups; transition planning and target setting. This contributes to the development of their skills as learners and increases their confidence and sense of responsibility for themselves and others. They are now more able to overcome barriers and are able, for example, to organise their own communication support.

The transition coordinator is also involved with children as they move in the secondary department of the school, and helps them to develop the confidence to cope with a new environment.

¹ Deaf is used to cover deaf, hard of hearing and deafened children and young people