



Helping churches and schools bring RE to life in Reading and beyond

## **Year6 Virtual Transition Session**

### **Introduction**

In this document you will find the script and some instructions for the REinspired Yr6 Transition PowerPoint presentation, that can be used at school with teachers or at home with parents.

We would usually host two large Transition Events in our local sports centres, to gather all our local Yr6 pupils together where they have the opportunity to meet, work and make friends with children from other Primary schools who are going to the same secondary as them. The session enables them to share worries and wisdom about the change they have in front of them and think about strategies for coping and adjusting to their new life as a secondary school student. We have found that friendships forged at the event can last for years, well beyond their secondary school years which is fantastic.

Whist the global pandemic has forced us and many others to cancel events, we are still keen to support our children at what can be a difficult time for them. Several of our teachers tell us that Yr6 children are quieter and less communicative about their transition this year with staff describing youngsters as being conflicted, confused and detached. Hardly surprising given what we have been going through, and the landscape now changing as we navigate our way out of lockdown. This then gives an opportunity for us adults to encourage our children to articulate how they feel, to encourage them and help them to realise that they are not alone, that what they are feeling is 'normal' and ok, even if it is a sense of numbness about it all.

Below you will find the script, so you can see in advance the tasks they will be doing and the conversations you will be leading with your child/children. They might have lots of questions, they might not. Using open ended questions will help to get the conversation flowing. Don't be spooked by long pauses, thinking time is ok or perhaps you might need to put the question to them another way. Don't worry if you don't have all the answers, it's ok to say that you don't know, instead wonder together what the answer might or could be. All will be revealed when they get to school in September. The important thing is having that conversation and that they know you are listening to them accepting all that they offer. Allowing them to be truly heard and then sharing together is a powerful and empowering thing.

I do understand that our own personal experience of secondary school may not have been a happy or positive one, but my hope is that we can put this to one side for their benefit and not project our anxiety or negative experiences onto them. We need to help them, if we can, feel positive and optimistic about the future.

### **A technical footnote**

At the end of each slide you might have to physically pause it, when it says click for the next slide, then restart it when you are ready. We are new to this way of working and at the time of writing this, the commentary on each slide is prompting the slide to roll onto the one that follows. Having a play with it in advance will help you find a way of using it

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that suits you best. I hope you have a good experience together and that your conversations continue over the summer. Thank you for taking the time to do this with your child. I know that your input is important to them.

## **What you will need**

Pens and or a pencil

3 pieces of paper

If you have a printer, there is a printable page which has 2 circles they can cut out for the emoji faces and a cut out option for the hope lily.

Scissors – if you are wanting to cut out the templates

A bowl of water

## **When you are ready, let's begin.**

### **Slide 1**

Hello Year 6. My name is Julia and I work for REinspired. It is so good to be with you today, even if it is just virtually.

Usually we come to school or church to see you and teach RE, but today the session is all about you and your transition to secondary school.

There are some activities to do and conversations to be had, I will tell you when it is time to these. I will also tell you when to 'click onto the next slide when you are ready'

Do you have what you need in front of you? Brilliant. Let us start.

***Click onto the next slide***

### **Slide 2**

When I have been thinking about you and you leaving primary it is as if you are at a crossroads. You are at a point in your journey where you can look behind you at the past and look forward to the future.

We all have many crossroad moments in our lifetime, moments when things change for us. This might be the first big crossroads moment that you have experienced.

I found this picture which I thought was helpful. A good place to start. We will use it to think about how you are feeling right now and about moving on, we will look back at your time in primary school life and think about how far you have come and what you are thankful for, then we will look forward, moving into secondary school and how you feel about that. What you are looking forward to and what you might be worried about. All with some helpful tips and wisdom along the way.

Change is not always easy or comfortable, but it can be really exciting too. I wonder if you feel ready for change.

***Click onto the next slide***

### **Slide 3**

Look at all these emoji faces. There are lots of emotions and feelings are being shown here. I wonder which one shows how you are feeling about leaving Primary school?

Get your piece of paper, it might be a yellow circle, and draw the face or emotion that represents how you are feeling.

Then write three words to *describe* what you are feeling, these three words might describe different mixed feelings, they might be different words for the same feeling. That's all ok.

Have a few moments to do your picture then have a conversation with your teacher in class or a grown up at home.

***When you are ready click onto the next slide***

### **Slide 4**

Welcome back. I hope you had some good conversations. I wonder if you noticed that others were feeling the same as you. I wonder if you noticed how helpful it is to talk to someone about how you are feeling.

All these feelings, no matter what they are, are completely normal. You are not the only one feeling this way. Yr 6 children up and down the country are going through the same thing as you right now and many will be feeling the same as you.

Knowing that you are not alone, and being able to talk to someone about it, is really important and helpful.

I wonder if your best friend talked to you about what they were feeling, what advice would *you* give them, how would *you* encourage and comfort them?

That is really good advice, write it down onto your emoji now...I will you a few seconds to do that.

As September gets closer, you can look at your emoji again and see if you feel differently, and perhaps add some more words of wisdom and encouragement for yourself.

Now I want you to think about all of the things you love and are thankful for about your time in primary school...can you think of your top 3? Think of how you have changed since you were in foundation or reception? Look at all the things you can do now! Amazing!

Write these onto the back of your emoji face,

***When you are ready click onto the next slide***

### **Slide 5**

Well done, good work. It's amazing how you have grown and changed in the last 7 years.

On this slide we are going to think about letting go. I have added this because there may be some things that sit uncomfortably with you, things you are unhappy about or are sorry for. Memories you would like to leave behind at Primary school.

Now is an opportunity to do that. This is what I want you to do.

Get your blank piece of paper and write down or draw a picture of what you want to leave behind. Then I want you to screw the paper up into a really tight ball and throw it into the bin... if you are in school your teacher might have a bin you can aim at.

One of the cool things about going to a new school, is that it gives you an opportunity for a fresh start, and a new beginning.

***When you are ready, click onto the next slide***

## **Slide 6**

Well done. Now we are going to think about starting secondary school.

Get your second piece of paper or yellow circle if you have one, its time now for your second emoji face.

Draw an emoji that represents how you are feeling about starting secondary school. Plus, like last time, three words to describe how you are feeling.

Do that now, then have a conversation with your teacher or an adult at home about what you have written.

***When you are ready click onto the next slide***

## **Slide 7**

Well done, good work.

I wonder. Do you have any questions or concerns about secondary school? Write them on the back of your emoji.

I wonder if you could ask a Yr7 teacher one question, what would you ask? Write this also on the back of your emoji.

I wonder what advice others will give you.

I wonder what advice you will give. Make a note of that wisdom too on the back of your emoji

Have a conversation in class or at home now about these things.

Get to work, and

***When you are ready, click onto the next slide***

## **Slide 8**

Part of growing up and moving to secondary school is the fact that you start to take responsibility for yourself.

Up to now, for the most part, your parents and teachers have reminded you what to do and when, and they help get stuff ready for you etc.

From September (if not before) this will start to change, and you will be in control of this for yourself. This is an exciting part of becoming an adult, but it can be tricky if you are not used to it.

Don't worry, it does get easier over time. But you need to make plans, to help with this new routine.

Here are some top tips. They will help you feel calmer, more prepared and in control.

Read tips on the screen

I wonder what words of wisdom would you share with someone going to secondary school?

What is the best piece of advice you have been given?

Share those ideas now in your class or at home. Write them on the back of your emoji

***When you are ready, click onto the next slide***

### **Slide 9**

Hopefully an interview with a yr7 teacher will be inserted here. If due to the speed at which we have had to get this produced, this has not been able to happen, advance to the next slide. We can make it available when it has been done.

***Click to the next slide when finished***

### **Slide 10**

I hope you have found this helpful and got some good ideas.

Now we are going to do our last activity. If you have done a session in Yr3/4 on Pilgrimages with us, you might remember this activity. In one of the workshops we made a hope or prayer lily, which we then floated on water.

In a moment get your lily template. If you are in school one has been prepared for you already. If you are at home cut out the template that comes with this presentation.

Once prepared, this is what you need to do.

Open up/unfold the lily flower. In the centre write your hope for the future, you can then colour in the flower if you wish.

Next, fold each petal inwards, so the tip of each petal is over the centre point of the lily. The petals now cover your words. Just like the image on the screen.

When you are ready, and when your teacher says, go to a bowl of water and gently place your lily onto the surface of the water.

Have a moment of stillness, while you think about your hope for the future and your journey into secondary school.

Wait and watch as the lily changes.

Go and do that now.

***Click onto the last slide when you are ready.***

### **Slide 11**

Well done. We have now come to the end of this presentation. I hope the opening of the lily gave you a bit of a 'wow' moment and made you smile.

You will have lots of wow moments and things to make you smile in the coming years.

Our last bit of wisdom is to remember that we are all connected and that we need each other. If the last few months and the global pandemic has taught us anything, it is this. This is a good thing.

Also, you are not alone and together you are strong.

Your teachers, parents and I believe you can do this; you are ready. We are proud of you and we believe in you.

If you are going to Maiden Erlegh Wokingham, Maiden Erlegh Reading or Bulmershe Secondary schools, we may well meet again. The team are looking forward to it.

For now, the REinspired team and I would like to wish you all the best for the future. We have loved working with you.

Be brave, be bold, be you, and keep asking those fabulous questions and learning from each other about faith and life, accepting one another for who you are.  
Have a great summer. God Bless.