

My Progression to Secondary School

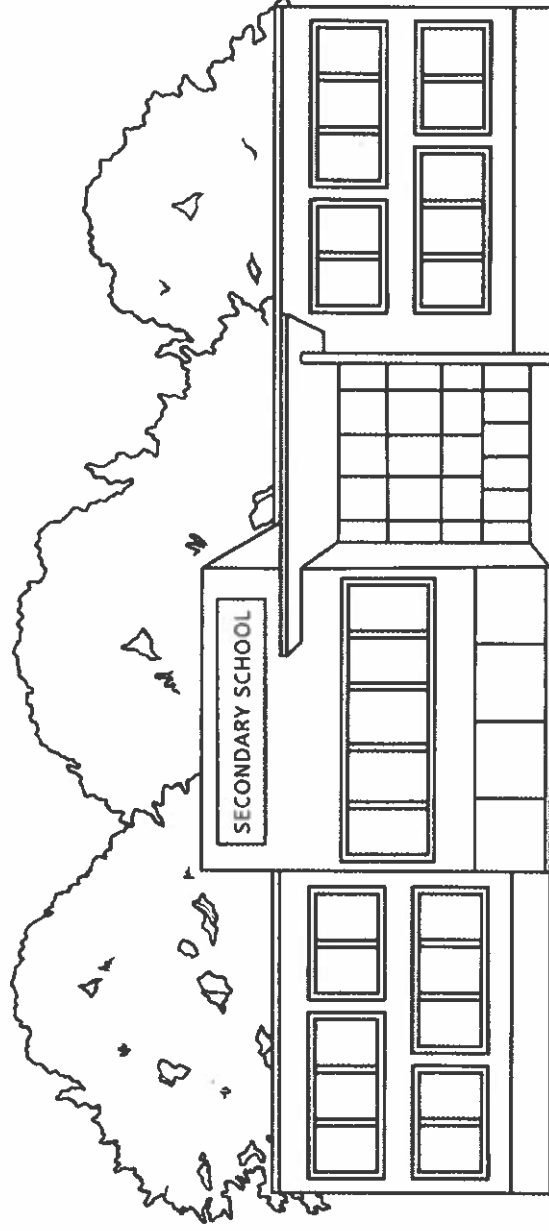
Preparation Activity File

Pupil name: _____

Soon, I will make a big move along my educational journey when I start secondary school. This will be an exciting time for me, but it could also prove to be a little bit scary or overwhelming.

I am completing this activity book to make myself more prepared for this important change in my life.

Date started: _____ Date completed: _____



A picture of me now
(in sixth class)

Primary School Profile

Task

You have been part of your primary school for some time now, so you know the place well. Use the information you already know to complete the following profile of your present school. Do some research to find extra information if you need to.

School name (English): _____

School name (Irish): _____

School motto: _____

Address: _____

Year established: _____

Number of pupils: _____

Gender of pupils: _____

School principal: _____

School deputy principal: _____

Number of teachers: _____

Number of Special

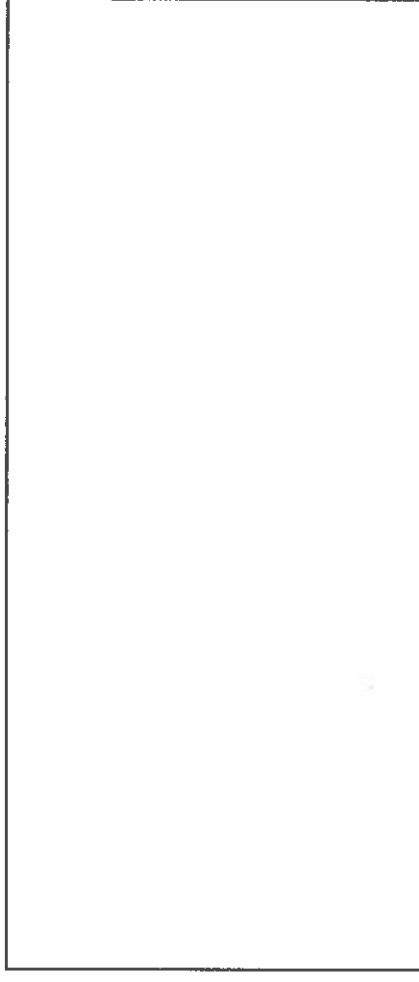
Needs Assistants: _____

Other staff: _____

School achievements: _____

Facilities: _____

Picture of School:



My Educational Journey So Far

Secondary School

I have learned a huge amount and have almost completed the first big step in my educational journey as I approach the end my time in primary school.

Here's a recount of my journey so far...

My name: _____

My age: _____

Date I started primary school: _____

Years I have been in primary school: _____

My current primary school: _____

Other primary schools I have attended: _____

Play/Montessori schools I have attended: _____

My first memory from primary school: _____

My favourite memory from primary school so far: _____

My favourite subject in primary school: _____

My least favourite subject: _____

Here is a list of my primary school teachers:

Junior Infants: _____

Senior Infants: _____

First Class: _____

Second Class: _____

Third Class: _____

Fourth Class: _____

Fifth Class: _____

Sixth Class: _____

Other teachers who worked with me: _____

A funny story from my time in primary school:

Here's a picture of me from my time in primary school:

Secondary School Profile

Secondary School

Task

Use the information you have gathered about your new school already, or use the internet, to complete the following profile for the secondary school you will be attending soon.

School name (English): _____

School name (Irish): _____

School motto: _____

Address: _____

Year established: _____

Number of pupils: _____

Gender of pupils: _____

School principal: _____

School deputy principal: _____

Number of teachers: _____

Number of Special

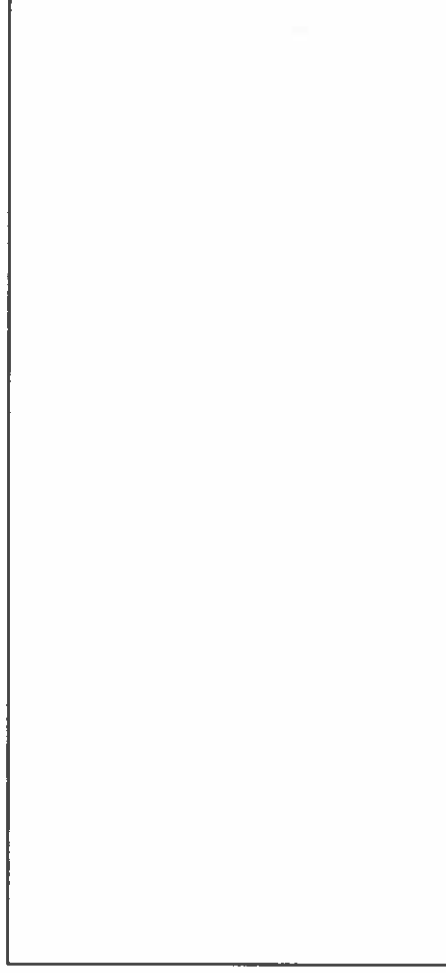
Needs Assistants: _____

Other staff:

Specialities:

Facilities:

Picture of School:



Travelling to School Survey

Secondary School

Task

Use the information you have gathered so far or do some research in order to complete the travel survey for how you will make the journey to your secondary school.

My school day will start at _____.

I will have to leave my home at _____ to get to school on time.

My school day will finish at _____.

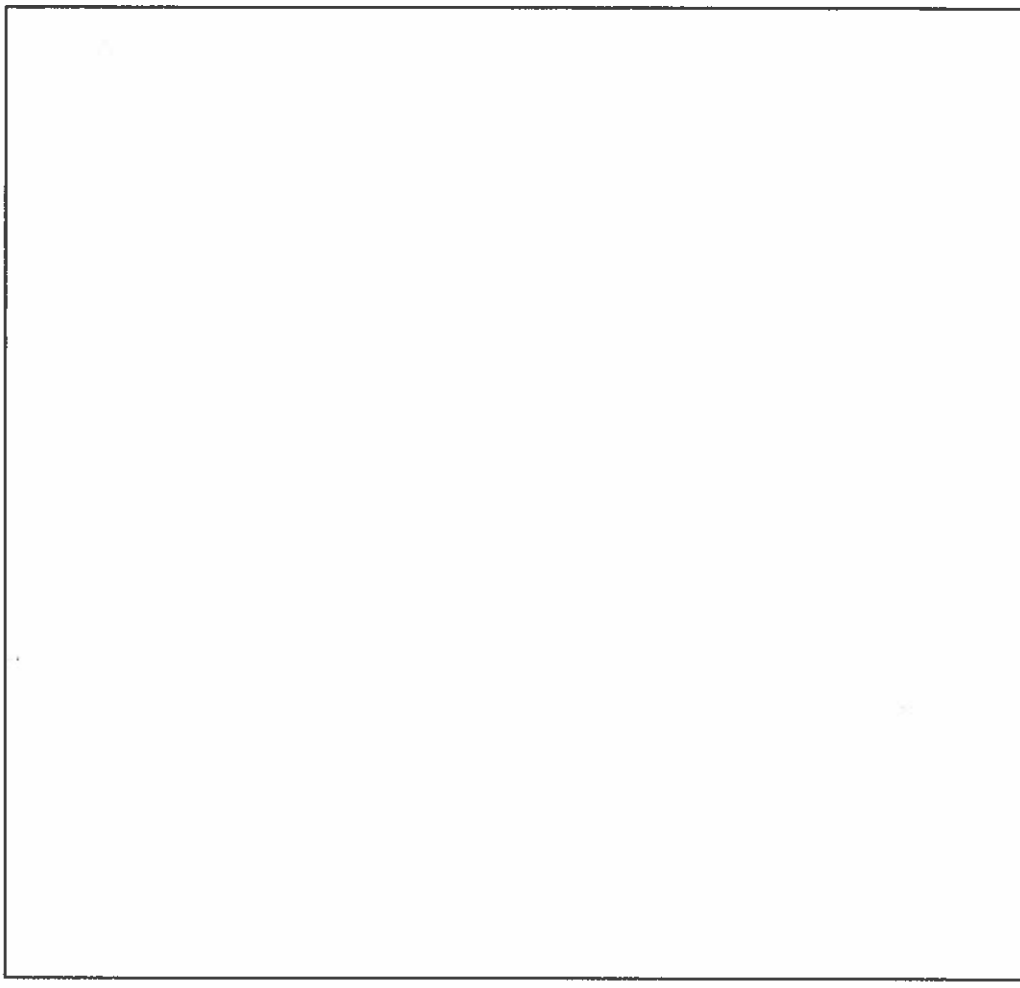
I will travel by _____ to get to school.

I will travel by _____ to get home from school.

It will take me _____ minutes to reach my home.



Here is a sketch map I have drawn of the route I will take to and from school:



New School Uniform

Task 1

Study the information you have already gathered about your new school to find out what the new uniform is like, or do some more research if required. Create a detailed and annotated (labeled) drawing of the school's uniform below.



Task 2

Think about the following and complete the sentences as fully as you can.

Secondary schools require their students to wear uniforms because:

Primary schools require their pupils to wear a special uniform for P.E. because:

A uniform has many benefits for students and parents, such as:

Uniforms can also have disadvantages, such as:

When uniforms are being created, designers should think about:

In an ideal world, my new school uniform would:

School Equipment

Secondary School

When you move to secondary school, you will need to bring the equipment you will require with you to your classes. You may need special equipment for certain subjects.

Task 1

Match the equipment to the subject you think you might need it for below.

- graphite pencils
- scientific calculator
- language dictionary
- thesaurus
- set square
- apron
- bag of ingredients
- colouring pencils
- art folder
- Bible
- tin whistle

- English
- maths
- German/French
- woodwork
- art
- home economics
- religious
- music

Task 2

Now imagine you have the following subjects tomorrow: maths, home economics, wood work, French and art. Write a list of the equipment you'll need to put into your school bag to be prepared for them.

Bonus task

Can you think of any items you will need every day? Hint: what would you record your homework in?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

School Rules

Secondary School

All schools need rules. Your new secondary school will be no different. There are many different rules which apply to various areas of school life.

Task 1

What might the rules be for the following areas of school life in your new secondary school?

School uniform:

Break times:

Homework:

Moving around the corridors:

Classroom behaviour:

School starting time:

School finishing time:

If you have a copy of the school rules for your new secondary school, why not compare these to the ones you've written? See if there are any similarities or differences between them.

Task 2

Now think about the following and finish the sentences as fully as you can.

All schools need rules because:

When people break the school rules there are usually consequences, such as:

When people break the school rules, it is a good idea for them to:

Daily Timetable 1st Year Moneystown Secondary School

Secondary School

Time/period	Monday	Room	Tuesday	Room	Wednesday	Room	Thursday	Room	Friday	Room
9.00 - 9.40	Gaeilge M. Burke	71	English O. Byrne	33	History D. Slevin	36	Geography D. McManus	36	French L. O'Malley	34
9.40 - 10.20	History D. Slevin	60	Geography D. McManus	36	German B. Murphy	34	English O. Byrne	33	Gaeilge M. Burke	71
10.20 - 11.00	Maths N. O'Rourke	33	Maths N. O'Rourke	33	Gaeilge M. Burke	28	English O. Byrne	33	Maths N. O'Rourke	72
Break										
11.00 - 11.10										
11.10 - 11.50	Metal Work N. Richards	45	Home Economics Z. Cohen	Cookery room	English O. Byrne	33	Gaeilge M. Burke	40	Music J. O'Dwyer	Music room
11.50 - 12.30	Metal Work N. Richards	45	Home Economics Z. Cohen	Cookery room	Art F. Timlin	Art room	Wood Work N. Richards	50	Music J. O'Dwyer	Music room
12.30 - 13.10	English O. Byrne	33	C.S.P.E. B. Murphy	29	Art F. Timlin	Art room	Wood Work N. Richards	50	English O. Byrne	33
Lunch										
13.10 - 13.50										
13.50 - 14.30	German B. Murphy	34	Business Studies P. Davis	71	Maths N. O'Rourke	40	French L. O'Malley	34	Business Studies P. Davis	71
14.30 - 15.10	P.E. H. Gormley	Gym	Gaeilge M. Burke	71	Maths N. O'Rourke	40	Pastoral Care/ Personal Development	36	Religion M. Kelly	35
15.10 - 15.50	P.E. H. Gormley	Gym	Gaeilge M. Burke	71	Religion N. O'Rourke	39	Maths N. O'Rourke	34	Science S. Lynch	Science lab 1

Daily Timetable Activity 1

Secondary School

When you are starting in secondary school in September, one of the first things you will likely be given will be your timetable. This is a really important source of information because it informs you when and where all of your lessons will take place. You will need to check your timetable each night in order to know what you will need to bring to school with you the following day. It would be a good idea to display a copy of your timetable inside your locker so that you can easily check it. You will need to keep an eye on the time and listen carefully for the school bells so that you are not late for your classes.

Your timetable may include the following pieces of information:

- days of the week
- times for each class
- subjects
- room numbers
- teacher names for each subject

At the end of each class a bell will usually ring to let you know it is time to move and go to your next class. You may not always have to move to a different room for each class, but you will find this out in September.

Task

Think about your daily routine in primary school at present. Fill in the activities you do on a daily basis in the timetable below, at the time at which you do them. (You can divide up the sessions before, between and after breaks as you need to).

Time/period	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	Break				
	Lunch				

Daily Timetable Activity 2

Secondary School

Imagine you are already a pupil at secondary school and have been given the sample daily timetable. Answer the following questions:

1. How long do classes last for?

2. How often do you do art during the week? Which day(s) is it on?

3. What subjects do you study every day? Why do you think this is so?

4. List the special equipment you would need to pack for your classes on Wednesday.

5. Which locations will you study Gaelige in during the week?

6. When would you get time to talk to your Head of Year or mentor during the week if you had a problem to sort out?

7. Which class would you be most looking forward to during the week? Give reasons for your answer.

8. Which day would you be most looking forward to during the week? Give reasons for your answer.

9. Which teachers would you have for maths and science during the week?

10. Which room would you visit most often during the week?

Homework

In first year, you will be given more homework than you are used to being given in primary school. Different teachers will set you homework for various subjects and they will tell you when they expect you to hand it in. Being organised and keeping a journal will help you keep on top of your homework.

Task 1

Imagine you have been set the following homework tasks on a Monday. Write the items into your journal below so that you will know what to do. Remember: you may have to write the items down quickly at the end of class, so come up with your own method of recording and understanding them.

Monday, 9th September

English: Read Chapter 3 of 'The Siege', write summary of chapter and draft outline for debate on 'smoking' (Friday)

Maths: Trigonometry questions a to f and write corrections to today's work in copy

Gaeilge: learn irregular verbs (Aimsir Láithreach) in hardbook copy, learn irregular verbs (Aimsir Láithreach) (test on Wednesday) and comprehension questions on 'Lá eile' – 1 to 5 (full sentences)

Art: get 2B and 3B pencils, work on collage for clay project (next Monday)

History: Read 'The Normans', draw timeline in copy, find three pieces of additional information online (Wednesday)

Journal: Monday

Task 2

Now write the pieces of homework in order of the priority you are going to complete them. Remember to think about which ones you need to do first. Other pieces might be worked on over the course of a few evenings.

Getting to Know People

When you move to secondary school, you will meet lots of new people. Other people from your primary school may or may not be going to the same secondary school as you. They may or may not be in the same classes as you. It will be really important that you are able to get to know new people. The most important thing to remember is that other people will be feeling just as nervous and 'new' as you will be.

Task 1

Think about the following sentences and complete them as fully as you can.

1. It is important to be able to get along with new people I meet because:

2. I find meeting new people:

3. Here is an example of how I got to know somebody before:

4. Here is an example of something people might do which would stop them getting to know people:

Task 2

Now compare the amount of people you mix with in primary school and the amount you may meet when you get to secondary school. What pattern do you notice? What does this tell you about how important getting to know people will be?

Primary School	Secondary School
Number of pupils in my class	Number of students in first year (average)
Number of boys in my class	Number of boys in first year (average)
Number of girls in my class	Number of girls in first year (average)
Number of teachers I have been taught by	Number of teachers I will be taught by in first year (average)
Total number of pupils in my school	Total number of students in the school

Task 3

Tick the strategies below that may be helpful when getting to know people and making new friends.

- Sit by yourself in class
- Smile and say 'hello'
- Ignore people who are sitting by themselves
- Introduce yourself and ask the other person what their name is
- Tell someone what you are interested in or what hobby you enjoy before asking them about what they like to do most
- Only talk about yourself
- Ask someone if they would like to eat lunch with you

Time Capsule Snapshots

Task

Write or draw in each snapshot to record your time in primary school now.

Here's what I look like in sixth class

Here are my closest friends

Here's my favourite subject in sixth class

Here's something I'm really proud about achieving in primary school

Here's my funniest memory from primary school

Here's what I usually do during break times

Here's an example of a performance I took part in during primary school

Here's my first memory from primary school

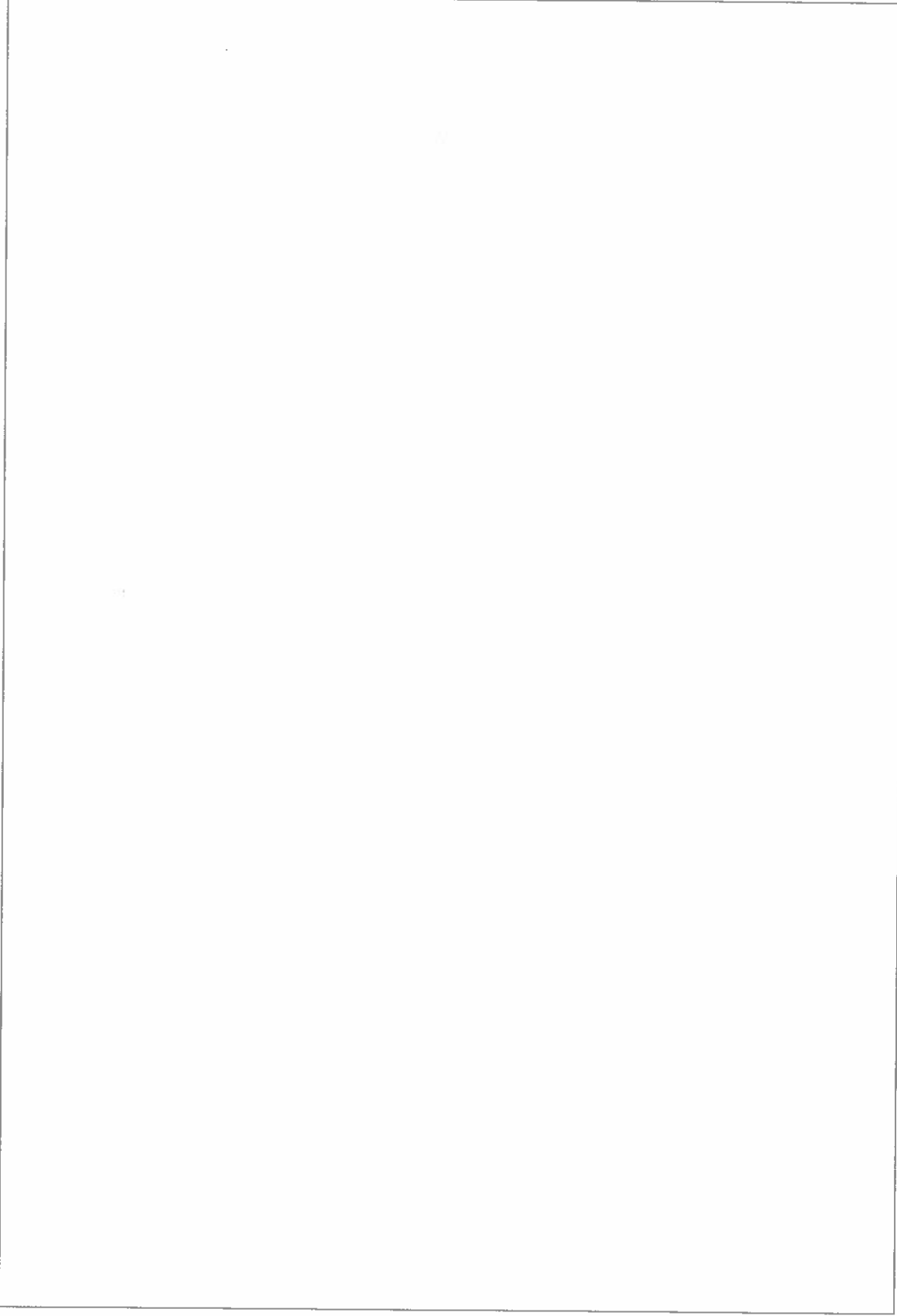
Here's how I would like to remember my time in primary school

Time Capsule Scrapbook

Secondary School

Task

Collect some images, drawings, pieces of writing, or any other things that you would like to have as memories from your time in primary school.



School Scenarios Activity 1

Think about the following school scenarios. Use the space beneath each one to explain what you would do.

1. You are on your second day in first year and you cannot find the classroom where your geography lesson is about to start. What do you do?

2. A girl in your maths class has recently started being very rude and aggressive to you when the teacher is working with other pupils. Yesterday she threatened to take your homework sheet. She is making you very nervous and other people in the class seem to be finding what she is doing funny. What should you do?

3. You stayed up late last night completing your English essay. When it is time to hand it in at the end of the English class, you suddenly remember that you left it on your desk at home. What do you do?

4. When you arrive in school on Tuesday morning, you head straight to your locker to get your science textbook for the first class. Suddenly, you reach into your pocket and realise your locker key is not there. What do you do?

School Scenarios Activity 2

Secondary School

Think about the following school scenarios. Use the space beneath each one to explain what you would do.

1. When you get home on Thursday evening you cannot remember what your science homework was because you didn't write it down properly in your journal. What do you do?

2. The boy who sits beside you in your music class asks if you will let him copy your answers in the upcoming test. What do you do?

3. On the way into school, you are chewing gum and forget to put it into the bin before you arrive. The principal spots you chewing the gum and confronts you. What do you do?

4. By yourself, think of a scenario that could occur in secondary school. Write the scenario and what you would do below.

My Feelings About Secondary School

Secondary School

Answer the following based on your feelings about secondary school as honestly as possible.

1. What do you imagine secondary school will be like?

2. When you think about moving to secondary school, what feelings do you experience? Give reasons your answer.

3. What are you looking forward to the most in secondary school? Explain your answer.

4. What are you looking forward to the least in secondary school? Explain your answer.

5. What is your biggest fear about secondary school?

6. What could you do to work on this fear?

7. If you have spoken to someone who attends the secondary school you are going to, what have they told you about it?

8. How do you imagine you will be feeling on your first day in secondary school?

9. What strategies might you use to deal with feeling nervous or stressed as you begin secondary school?

10. Name one person you would be able to talk to about any concerns you may have about your move to secondary school.
