As a school, we are aware that transition from one school to another can be a strange time for parents as well as their children, where all involved undoubtedly experience many complex and changing emotions.

As a new member of our Church Hill Middle School family, we want to help and support you through the transition process. Therefore, we have asked some of our existing parents, who have recently gone through the transition into our school, to reflect on their experience and speak directly to you as new members of our community.

Hopefully, their words and sharing of their experiences will help!

How did you feel before your child/children started Church Hill? What helped you during this time? Do you have any advice to pass on?

We felt very anxious and apprehensive about our son starting Church Hill Middle School. My son is a bit of a worrier so he began to worry about moving school. Church Hill were quick to reassure us and took time out to talk to my son and us, being informative and supportive throughout the whole process. I couldn’t believe how quickly my son settled, but more importantly he was happy, felt safe and secure, and made lots of new friends.

My advice to new parents would be to be clear and honest about any concerns you have. The school will go above and beyond to accommodate you, set your mind at ease and put measures into place to enable your child to settle and be happy within school.

Overwhelmed and then excited. What helped us with the transition was communication, talking through any worries or concerns we had as a family and we encouraged our son to talk to his friends about how he and they felt about moving over to a new school. Advice I would give would to talk about the transition with your child and definitely talk to a member of staff if you feel you need additional help or advice.

We were apprehensive about our children starting Churchill Middle as it wasn’t our first choice of school. We engaged with the school about our concerns and they were extremely helpful and arranged a visit to the school for us and our children. We met with the head who took time out of her day to listen to us and we found her to be very understanding and reassuring. My advice: Breathe......everything will be ok. Don’t always rely on a general perception or hearsay about a school. Talk to the people that count, parents, teachers, TA’s etc. Engage with the school if you have any concerns, however small, they are willing to listen.

What did you find to be the biggest difference between our middle school and your child’s previous school? What needed adjusting to and how did you best manage this?

Church Hill is much bigger than my son’s first school (the number of children in his year group was much larger and the class sizes were bigger). Work expectations also increased which is to be expected. My son needed to adjust to all of the above, but we felt that this was a gradual process once he had started, rather than a sudden shock which is what I had initially expected. He was always well supported during this time.
What are your words of wisdom? What do you wish someone had told you as a new member of our community?

Looking back, I would have told myself to not panic! Trust in the staff, who, as well as me, just want the best for your child. I remember us being welcomed into the Church Hill family. I have never doubted that statement and have always felt that the school have my son’s best interests at heart. I would never hesitate to contact the school to discuss any concerns I have. I know I would be listened to, and my concerns addressed to the best of their ability.

Talk things through and don’t be hesitant to contact them. Staff are always there to support you and are all very approachable and caring. Parents and staff are all working for the same outcome: happy children who feel safe and secure.

Be happy and excited with your children about their new school. Go on the website, show them pictures, be positive. Save any concerns or worries for adult ears.

What other comments would you like to add and share?

I have a few things that I really admire about the school:
I love the pride that emanates from the staff and pupils throughout the school, which reflects in their work, their extra-curricular activities and their learning.
I love the school’s values and ethos, something that drew me to the school in the first place. It is a school that celebrates mistakes, which leads to an opportunity for students to learn from them.
I love the fact that the children’s mental health and wellbeing is just as important to them as their education and progress. The curriculum is delivered in a fun and unique way, allowing the children to use everyday experiences to achieve a task.
Before I committed to Church Hill Middle, I had a few questions and sought some reassurance on a few issues. I was so impressed by the school’s transparency and honesty. It gave me a real sense of trust and mutual respect.

My favourite thing about Churchill is how it feels like a really big family. The staff look happy to be there and they take pride in making it a great school with great kids!!

We hope this has answered some of your questions and that our existing parents’ experiences have helped. We are a community made up of staff, parents and children and are on this transitional journey together. If you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to contact us, and keep an eye out on our website for new intake information and resources.

We look forward to meeting you all! Take care.