Schools are working with students and families to ensure educational, wellbeing and engagement supports are in place, so that students are connected with learning and engaged in a positive transition into 2021.

# **Working with your child’s school**

To make sure there is a current plan for understanding and meeting your child’s needs:

* Participate in a [Student Support Group (SSG)](https://www.education.vic.gov.au/parents/additional-needs/Pages/disability-student-support-groups.aspx) meeting.
* Talk to your child’s teacher about updating their [individual education plan](https://www.education.vic.gov.au/parents/additional-needs/Pages/disability-learning-support.aspx#iep) to guide their learning.
* Share current information about your child’s needs (such as assessments and medical reports).

# **Students with complex health needs**

If your child has complex health needs:

* Seek advice from their medical practitioner to support decision-making about on-site education.
* Work with your child’s school to make sure their [Student Health](https://www.education.vic.gov.au/Documents/school/principals/health/studenthealthsupport.doc) [Support Plan](https://www.education.vic.gov.au/Documents/school/principals/health/studenthealthsupport.doc) is up to date.

# **Health and safety actions**

Schools are taking actions to ensure safe teaching and learning environments for staff and students, see: [Health and safety advice for all Victorian schools](https://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/Pages/healthadvice.aspx).

# **National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS)**

If your child is an NDIS participant, you may be able to arrange additional disability supports. You can also request new or increased support coordination to help organise your child’s NDIS Supports.

* [Advice for Victoria](https://www.ndis.gov.au/coronavirus/advice-victoria) contains NDIS information for participants including what support is available.
* Parents and carers can access [NDIS frequently asked questions](https://www.ndis.gov.au/coronavirus/participants-coronavirus-covid-19/parents-and-carers-children-remote-learning) for parents and carers of children.
* NDIA has produced [information for Victorian families and carers of school aged participants](https://www.ndis.gov.au/coronavirus/information-packs#victoria-information-for-families-and-carers-of-school-aged-ndis-participants).

For more information you can contact your child's NDIS [Local Area Coordinator](https://www.ndis.gov.au/about-us/locations.html) or the NDIS on 1800 800 110.

If your child is not an NDIS participant you can test their eligibility by contacting [Local Area Coordinator](https://www.ndis.gov.au/about-us/locations.html), the NDIS on 1800 800 110 or visit: [Am I eligible](https://www.ndis.gov.au/applying-access-ndis/am-i-eligible).

# **School transitions**

Schools continue to provide learning and education experiences at students’ point of need. This is a focus as children and young people participate in school transitions into next year.

* Some parents and carers may be worried that their child may have to repeat a year due to the disruptions of coronavirus (COVID-19). There is little evidence to support the benefits of repeating a year. Instead, schools will use teaching strategies that draw on the best evidence available to help students meet their learning needs and support them to **move through year levels** with their peers.
* All children **starting Prep in 2021** will have developed a range of skills and abilities that form the basis for further learning.
* Year 6 students will be supported to finish this school year strong, with the confidence to move to **secondary schooling in 2021**.
* Students in their **final year of school** will be supported by their school, family and community who will work together to transition them to employment or other options in 2021.

# [**Tips to support your child’s health and**](https://www.education.vic.gov.au/parents/learning/Pages/home-learning-screentime-wellbeing.aspx)[**wellbeing**](https://www.education.vic.gov.au/parents/learning/Pages/home-learning-screentime-wellbeing.aspx)

Advice, tips and resources available for parents and carers to support their child’s mental and physical health and wellbeing. It covers a range of topics including:

* [Managing screen time and online safety](https://www.education.vic.gov.au/parents/learning/Pages/home-learning-screentime-wellbeing.aspx)
* [Looking after your child’s wellbeing](https://www.education.vic.gov.au/Documents/parents/family-health/your-childs-wellbeing-advice.pdf)
* [Looking after your child’s mental health](https://www.education.vic.gov.au/Documents/parents/family-health/your-childs-mental-health-advice.pdf)
* [Physical activity and healthy eating](https://www.education.vic.gov.au/parents/family-health/Pages/healthy-eating-physical-activity.aspx)
* [Taking care of yourself](https://www.education.vic.gov.au/parents/family-health/Pages/taking-care-of-yourself.aspx)
* [Wellbeing activities for parents of primary school students](https://www.education.vic.gov.au/Documents/parents/family-health/parents-wellbeing-activities-primary.pdf)
* [Wellbeing activities for parents of secondary students](https://www.education.vic.gov.au/Documents/parents/family-health/parents-wellbeing-activities-secondary.pdf)

# [**Talking to your child about coronavirus**](https://www.education.vic.gov.au/parents/Pages/talkingtoyourchildaboutcoronavirus.aspx)[**(COVID-19)**](https://www.education.vic.gov.au/parents/Pages/talkingtoyourchildaboutcoronavirus.aspx)

[Advice](https://www.education.vic.gov.au/parents/Pages/talkingtoyourchildaboutcoronavirus.aspx) on having a safe and reassuring conversation about coronavirus (COVID-19), available in a range of community languages.

# **Other supports**

The [Association for Children with a Disability](https://www.acd.org.au/covid-19-latest-information/) and [Amaze](https://www.amaze.org.au/coronavirushub/) are providing information and support for families during coronavirus (COVID-19).