Transitioning Back to School
Practical Steps for supporting students with additional needs

Returning to school after a long period of absence may involve a range of considerations for students with additional needs. Careful planning is important, and there are a number of practical steps that can be taken to support a smooth transition back to the school environment.

**Foster Relationships**

- Establish regular check-ins between individual students and a trusted member of staff.
- Schedule structured activities to support and re-establish peer relationships in a safe, predictable space.

**Plan Collaboratively**

- Gather information from the student, their family, and staff to inform the transition process.
- Personalise advice and consider developing a tailored timetable highlighting changes around key events such as when assemblies will be run.

**Communicate clearly**

- Provide clarity about new or changed school guidelines, especially in relation to hygiene procedures and use of school facilities.
- Establish routines for how connection will be maintained on the days when the student may still be learning remotely.

**Transition Gradually**

- Maintain connections between the student and peers through informal check-ins.
- Consider a gradual transition if appropriate, that takes into account the specific needs of the student.

For more information about supporting students with additional needs in their transition to the school environment, please visit [https://www.aisnsw.edu.au/teachers-and-staff/supporting-students](https://www.aisnsw.edu.au/teachers-and-staff/supporting-students)