

The national curriculum describes what children need to achieve academically, but growing up is so much more. Here are some of the life experiences and skills that will help young people to develop into the exceptional adults we know they can be.

A great place to live and work.

If your child is aged 11 and transferring to secondary school, or moving up to Year 7 in their current school, then here are a few ideas of things they will enjoy doing or should be able to do:

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Use your maths knowledge to help you on a day-to-day basis	You have spent many years learning about maths – now make it work for you. Calculate how much less you have to pay if there is a percentage discount. Don't get ripped off – count your money, know your change and understand the value of it. Tell the time: it stops you being late and helps you plan your life. Know how much of each ingredient you need if you are making double the recipe. Measure a space and work out if your things will fit in. You will find out how useful your tables, inverse operations, fractions, percentages and decimals, graphs and measuring really are.	
Recite a poem or a piece of prose	Learn something off by heart and then recite it to an audience. This can be part of a school play, a class project, or even just for the fun of it. Once you start to know beautiful language you will use more interesting vocabulary and make your writing better.	
Travel on public transport	You may have an adult with you, but you decide which train or bus you need to get, buy the ticket and get on and off at the right stops. Practise your journey to school. Know where the busy roads are and how to cross them safely.	
Find a favourite artist / musician and performer	Look and listen to lots of different creative individuals and groups and decide which you prefer and why. Think about the mediums (materials, instruments etc.) and what you like about them. Do not restrict your self to painted artwork; think about designers, architects, modern and older composers and performers, photographers – there are so many to choose from. Be able to explain your choices.	
Speak another language	You may already speak a different language at home, or be learning one at school. Try to speak in the language to people and see if they understand you. Have fun with the language and pretend you are ordering food in a foreign cafe or meeting someone who speaks the language for the first time.	000
Find out about a different religion or culture	Visit a place of worship you haven't been to before. Chat to people from different faiths and cultures and get an understanding of what they believe in and how they live their lives. See if you can find similarities with religions and cultures you are more familiar with. We all live under the same sky – so find out about what makes others tick and share and celebrate with them.	

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	Chat to someone at school you do not know	Meeting and talking to new people is daunting for everyone and you need to feel particularly brave sometimes. The more you smile and chat to people – they will smile and chat back to you. Just don't do it whilst your teacher is talking!
	Develop a hobby	It doesn't matter what it is, find something you love and then find out more about it. You will start to become an expert in your field when you specialise in a certain hobby. It can be anything – card making, football, film critic, rock climbing, visiting castles – you name it, it can become a hobby!
- I.	Keep yourself safe	As you grow more independent, you need to become aware of the dangers around you – and avoid them. Know how to protect yourself on-line; posting is permanent! Think about how to get around safely (wear a helmet when you are on your bike.) Think about where it is not safe to go at different times of the day and night. Understand what is acceptable behaviour from others and what isn't. Most importantly, ask for help if you need it and keep asking until you feel safe. Know who to trust and who can help you.



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