

## DRAWING THE FUTURE *with a Transitions Twist*

### What is Primary Futures?

[Primary Futures](#) is a free programme from the charity Education and Employers, seeking to raise children's aspirations, challenge stereotypes and help them see the relevance of learning by connecting schools with inspiring role models from the world of work. Schools can use Primary Futures to plan in-person activities with local volunteers or connect virtually with volunteers from all walks of life across the country, including through our pre-recorded activities and lesson plans. With thousands of virtual volunteers available, schools can make links with pupils' learning whatever the focus – whether it's a horticulturalist joining a lesson on plants and biomes or a graphic designer talking about how they use art, maths and IT. The Primary Futures team can support with resources, guides, planning calls and advice. [Register to access all this and more](#)

### Why link careers with transitions?

The move to secondary school for Year 6 pupils is a key moment for aspirational thinking: what are they working towards for their futures and how will the upcoming transition form the building blocks for this?

### How to use this resource

Teachers may be familiar with our simple activity 'Drawing the Future' that generated [revealing research](#) about children's aspirations in 2016. This is an adaptation of that activity for children to make the explicit link between their career aspirations and the imminent transition to secondary school.

- **Part 1 'Drawing the Short-Term Future'** is a simple reflection activity adapted from one of our plenaries for children to consider their feelings, thoughts, actions and take-aways for the transition ahead on a diagram of head-heart-bag-feet (page 2 attached)
- **Part 2 'Drawing the Long-Term Future'** is a simple aspirational drawing of what job(s) pupils want to have when they are older. Pupils then do a written reflection or discussion with prompts about how the two drawings connect (page 3 attached)

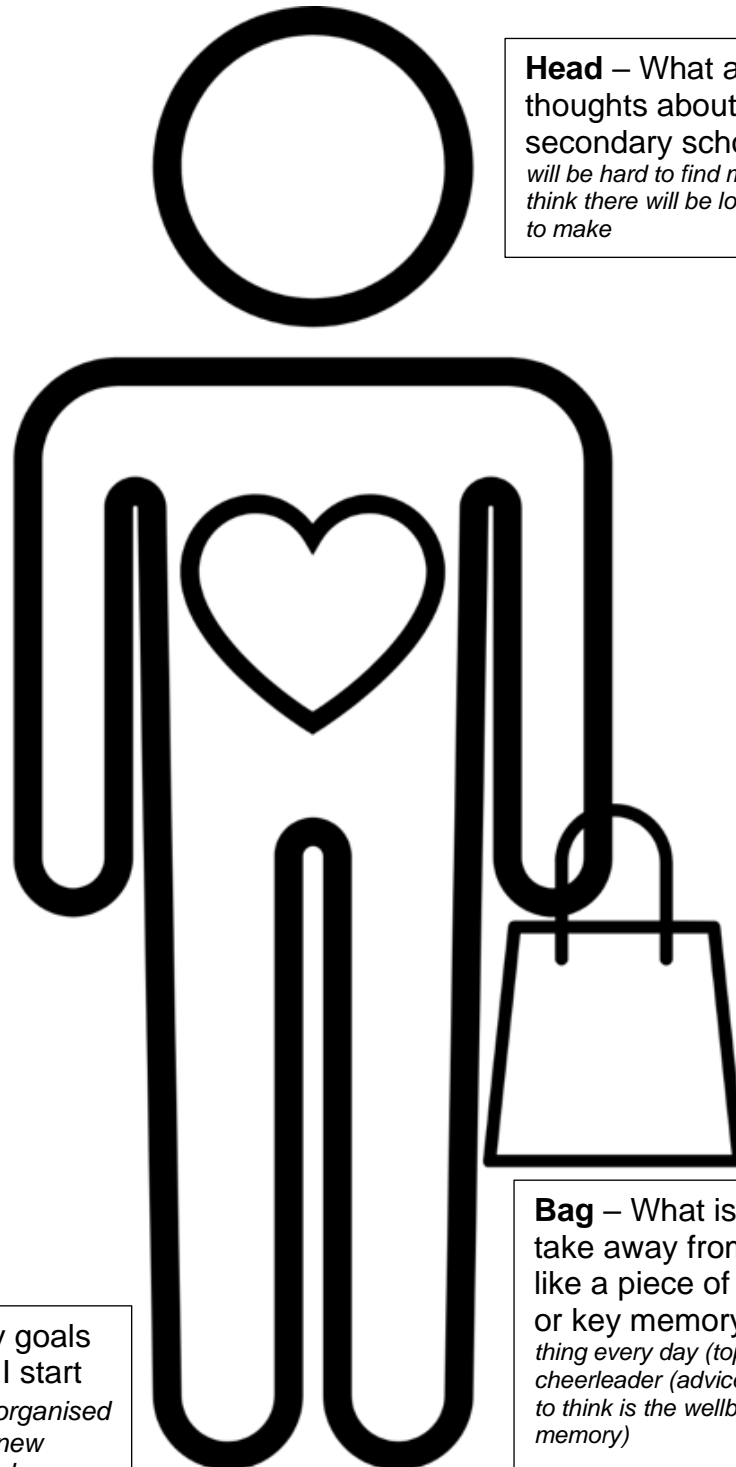
You could conduct this as a two-part activity as preparation for other transitions activities or just use one or the other parts as stand-alone.

Ideally, this two-part activity can also be used as an optional starter/plenary for a live careers Q&A with Primary Futures volunteers with a Year 6/7 transitions theme. You can find further details in the Activity Format Guide to 'Making the Most of Transitions'

Children's drawings as an expression of their own aspirations can be optionally included in their portfolio you pass on to secondary schools.

## Part 1: Drawing the Short-Term Future

As individuals, groups or a whole class, reflect on the upcoming transition to Year 7 and secondary school. Write your answers to the prompts on sticky notes or annotate the drawing.



**Head** – What are my thoughts about moving on to secondary school? *i.e. I think it will be hard to find my way around; I think there will be lots of new friends to make*

**Heart** – What are all my feelings about moving on to secondary school? These could be positive or negative or neutral. *i.e. I feel excited to have more independence; I feel overwhelmed about more homework*

**Feet** – What are my goals or actions for when I start Year 7? *i.e. be more organised with my studying; try a new extra-curricular club; be brave putting my hand up in class*

**Bag** – What is something I will take away from primary school like a piece of advice, top tip or key memory? *i.e. try one new thing every day (top tip); be my own cheerleader (advice); my favourite place to think is the wellbeing garden (key memory)*

## Part 2: Drawing the Long-Term Future

When I grow up I think I would like to be a.....  
Remember you can change your mind as you grow older!

Draw one or more pictures of what you might want to do as a job when you grow up.  
You can also write on your drawing.



1) I chose this because.....

2) Can you list three skills or qualities you think are necessary for this job that will **also** be useful skills/qualities in secondary school? (i.e. speaking in front a group)

1. .... 2. .... 3. ....

3) One thing I will do in secondary school to help me get this job in the long-term future is.....

.....

4) Go back to your first drawing 'Draw your Short-Term Future'. Have you anything to add or change about your thoughts/feelings/goals/take-away now that you have thought about what you would like to be when you grow up? Write your additions in a different colour or use a different coloured sticky note.