

For Post-16 students, their 'participation in education, employment or training' between age 16 and 18 could mean :

- full-time study in school, college or with a training provider (around 18 hours per week);
- full-time work or volunteering (20 hours or more) combined with part-time education or training leading to relevant regulated qualifications; or
- an apprenticeship, traineeship or supported internship.
- Young people joining the armed forces are considered to be fulfilling their duty to participate.

From Year 9 students must be offered independent careers advice at school. Discussions should cover options for continuing education or training, and possible routes into employment based on the student's personal interests and strengths.



Some options for students **with or without** an EHCP are:

- A levels at school or in a sixth form college - students with good academic strengths may do this but may be subject to the same entry requirements as other students, eg a minimum of grades at GCSE in specific subjects. Schools

can continue to provide additional support for students with SEND in Years 12 and 13.

- Staying at school to do a course specially designed for students with SEND, often only for Year 12. Few schools now offer this option but it can be a useful stepping-stone into college for students who need an extra year to develop independence.
- FE college - these offer a wide variety of courses plus specialist courses for students with significant SEND, including those with an EHCP. It is best to visit several colleges, starting in Year 10, and have more detailed discussions early in Year 11 with those that seem most promising. Applications are best made in the first part of Year 11. Students must be frank about their support needs so that the college can provide the right level of support for the course to be successfully completed. Colleges vary enormously in layout and general environment, in the courses they offer and in how learning is offered on different courses; distance from home and ease of travel are also important considerations for students with SEND. Knowing friends who plan to attend the same college may seem very important but friendship groups often change as time goes on and students make new friends on their own particular courses.
- Apprenticeships offer opportunities for work-based experiences and more formal academic training, and are often popular with students who have a particular interest eg in motor mechanics or working with animals. A student will also be entitled to a small salary as an apprentice.

Students **with** an EHCP can also opt for :

- Specialist college - courses for students with significant needs, and additional emphasis on developing life skills and independence. Students must first be assessed by the college and the local authority must agree the place.
- Traineeships - for students aged 16 to 24, possibly leading to an apprenticeship. Support is generally at a higher level than for apprenticeships and learning is less formal.
- Supported internships - offered by some employers, often for a year, for students aged 16 to 24. The aim is to equip students with the skills they need for work.
- Paid employment with part-time learning - work (or volunteering) 20 hours or more per week for 8 weeks or more, plus a minimum of 280 hours of learning per year.

You can contact us for further information or advice by:



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'Contact Ask Us' form on our website: www.ppsnotts.org.uk

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A guide to options available for young people with special educational needs aged 16+

(This guide only applies to young people living in England.)

What next after school?

All young people must stay in some form of education until at least their 18th birthday. That means full-time in school or in an alternative education setting until the end of the school year in which they reach 16, and at least part-time in some form of education or training until their 18th birthday, or often until the end of the academic year in which they turn 18.

Students with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), and particularly those with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP), are entitled to extra support so they can take advantage of education, employment or training opportunities.

