

## Post 16 Learning Options for young people with SEND: Information, Advice and Guidance

This guide is intended as a brief overview of Post 16 provision for young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). It is not intended to be a definitive guide as opportunities constantly change. Every effort has been made to ensure that this document is accurate, however please note that **details are subject to change**. We strongly recommend that you contact individual providers for the most up-to-date information.

### What you need to know

#### Raising the Participation Age (RPA)

The government has increased the age to which all young people in England must continue in education or training, requiring them to continue in learning until their 18th birthday.

Learning can comprise of full time education in school or college, traineeships, apprenticeships or supported internships. Young people may also be engaged in other forms of training intended to lead to the outcomes above.

#### Progression Routes at 16+

*Wherever you decide to study you will need to apply in good time – most providers' admissions close in the February before you will be starting in the September so that they can accurately plan the timetables. It is best to contact the provider directly or look on their website for further information. If you have an EHC plan you will need to name the provider you wish to attend in your final EHC plan only (to be completed by the end of March)*

Students can progress through two main routes: **full-time education** or **work-based learning/training** and still arrive at the same level of qualification.

See below for a comparison of qualification levels.

Learning routes & Qualification levels		
How many GCSEs have you got or will you be getting?	Type of learning	How long will it take?
At least 4 GCSE grades C or above or equivalent	<b>LEVEL 3</b> AS/A level courses; BTEC National and other vocational Level 3 courses Apprenticeships	2 years
At least 4 GCSE grades at D/E or equivalent	<b>LEVEL 2</b> Level 2 courses Apprenticeships	1 – 2 years
Some GCSE grades D/E/F or equivalent	<b>LEVEL 1</b> Level 1 courses Traineeships	1 – 2 years
No GCSE passes	<b>ENTRY LEVEL</b> Personalised Study Programme Traineeships	1 – 3 years

It is important to note that students can pursue a mixed route of work based and full-time education qualifications. They may need to “drop down” a level especially if they are studying a highly vocational course or training route.

All courses are fully funded by the Educational Funding Agency up until the age of 18, and by the Skills Funding Agency after 19 if students have an EHC plan or LDA.

## **Full Time Further Education (FE); College / Sixth Form/Sixth Form Colleges/Independent Providers**

There are four **FE colleges** in Suffolk that provide many different courses for students with a range of abilities:

- Suffolk New College - Ipswich
- Easton and Otley College - Otley
- West Suffolk College – Bury St Edmunds
- Lowestoft College

There are two **6<sup>th</sup> Form Colleges**:

- Lowestoft 6th Form
- One - (formerly Suffolk One, Ipswich)

There are **Independent Training Providers** that offer arrange of opportunities:

- WS training – Ipswich and Bury St Edmunds
- CSV – Ipswich
- NACRO – Ipswich
- Key Training – Ipswich
- The Junction – Stowmarket

There are also 25 **6<sup>th</sup> form schools** in Suffolk that may be able to accommodate students with SEND. For more information contact the school directly.

## **Study Programmes**

All students in full or part-time education aged 16 to 19 will be expected to follow a study programme that offers breath, depth and challenge. This should be tailored to their individual needs, education and employment goals, including students with learning difficulties and/or disabilities.

Part of their study programme will include the requirement to continue to study maths and English unless they have achieved at least a C in their GCSE. Depending on the level previously achieved, this could be studying for a Functional Skills qualification instead of a GCSE.

### **A levels - L3 qualifications**

Students usually take three or four A levels or equivalent. Entry requirements would normally be at least 5 GCSEs at C or above or other Level 2 qualification. They might need a B in the subjects they want to study at A level.

### **BTEC Courses – can be L3, L2, or L1**

Students usually take a BTEC in a specific area – such as Business, Health and Social Care, Art and Design. If studying at L3 their BTEC will take up the main part of their studies usually for two years. Students can study for L2 BTEC pre and post 16. A post 16 L2 BTEC will form the main part of their study for one year. Pre 16 students can take BTECs along with GCSEs. BTECs are assessed internally and by external examination.

## Apprenticeships

An apprenticeship is a job with a high level of training leading to a range of qualifications. Apprenticeships are available at Levels 2 (Intermediate) 3 (Advanced) and 4 (Higher) in a wide range of career frameworks such as agriculture, administration, construction, engineering, hospitality, sport and travel.

Apprentices usually spend 80% of their time in the workplace and 20% in off-the-job training. Young people have the opportunity to earn while they learn. Apprenticeships are competitive and employers often usually require maths and English GCSEs at C or above.

Young people interested in apprenticeships should register with the apprenticeship website:

[www.apprenticeships.co.uk](http://www.apprenticeships.co.uk)

Both employers and colleges have a duty under the Equality Act 2010 to make reasonable adjustments for disabled people. Colleges and training providers should be able to offer additional support during apprenticeship training. The Access to Work scheme can provide grants to pay for any specialist equipment and support costs in the workplace.

[www.disabilityrightsuk.org/sites/default/files/pdf/IntoApprenticeships.pdf](http://www.disabilityrightsuk.org/sites/default/files/pdf/IntoApprenticeships.pdf)

## Traineeships

Traineeships are work experience placements to help young people gain practical experience and skills for the work place. During the placement skills will be gained to help secure an apprenticeship placement or to find full time employment. Part of the programme is the offer of an exit interview and reference from the employer. Traineeships are aimed at young people almost “work ready” and can last for up to six months.

## Supported Internships

The supported internships scheme helps young people aged 16 to 24 with complex learning difficulties or disabilities to find work.

The scheme is run by further education (FE) colleges who work with employers to:

- find a job that suits the abilities of each intern
- create a unique study programme so all interns can learn the necessary skills to do the job

Study programmes include on-the-job training with expert coaches responsible for supporting both interns and their employers.

## Higher Education

There is a wide range of courses to study at Higher Education Institutions. SEND students can access support to help them achieve in their studies. For more information follow this link to the Disability Rights Council booklet:

[INTO HE](#)

## Progression Routes through the Levels

The level at which a student can join FE/training/work based learning depends on their ability and previous attainment. Entry requirements also vary across education providers. The provider will be able to advise you on the entry requirements for the course that you are interested in.

## Funding Post-16 Education

Students who are 16, 17 or 18 on 31<sup>st</sup> August in the calendar year when they begin a programme of study - at FE College or 6<sup>th</sup> Form - DO NOT pay tuition fees, registration fees or examination fees. **If students are over 19 and have an EHC plan or LDA they will be unlikely to pay fees.**

Students may need to pay for equipment such as books, materials or uniform. Cost of travel and trips may need funding.

There are some schemes to support students who might struggle to meet these costs:

### 16 – 19 Bursary

*Please note each provider administers the funding in their own way. They may also call this by other names such as the Learner Support Fund.*

*The information below is intended as a brief guide. Guidance should be sought from each individual provider before advice is given to young people regarding the Bursary.*

There are two types of bursaries:

**Vulnerable student bursary** – receiving up to £1,200 if the learner:

- is in local authority care or have recently left local authority care; or
- receive Income Support or Universal Credit (a new benefit which will replace Income Support) or
- is disabled and receives both Employment Support Allowance and Disability Living Allowance or Personal Independence Payments (a new benefit which will replace Disability Living Allowance)

**Discretionary bursary** – A learner can apply for a discretionary bursary if they aren't eligible for a vulnerable bursary but would need financial help to stay on in further education or training. The individual school, college or training provider will decide whether a learner will receive a discretionary bursary, how much, and what it should be used for.

### Who can apply?

To apply for a bursary, the learner must be at least 16 years old and under 19 years old at the start of the academic year.

The learner must also be taking part in full-time or part-time further education or training.

**If in doubt, please contact the relevant education/training provider for more information**

Parents/carers continue to receive **Child Benefit** and other benefits previously awarded pre-16  
[www.direct.gov.uk/en/MoneyTaxAndBenefits/ChildBenefitandChildTrustFund/index.htm](http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/MoneyTaxAndBenefits/ChildBenefitandChildTrustFund/index.htm)

**Care to Learn**

Care to Learn can help pay for childcare costs if a student is a young parent under 20. The scheme is available for publicly funded courses in England at schools and FE/ 6<sup>th</sup> Form colleges.

[www.direct.gov.uk/caretolearn](http://www.direct.gov.uk/caretolearn)

#### **Dance and Drama Awards**

Dance and Drama Award (DaDA) help with fees and living costs at one of 19 private dance and drama schools. Apply direct to the dance and drama school. Students must be 16 or over and show talent and a likelihood to succeed in the industry.

[Dance and Drama Awards](#)

#### **Army Bursary Scheme**

For students committed to a future in the Army, help may be available depending on the course

[www.army.mod.uk/armyineducation/bursary/febs-award.aspx](http://www.army.mod.uk/armyineducation/bursary/febs-award.aspx)

#### **Residential and Specialist course scheme**

Can help with costs if the course a student wants to study is not available locally

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/residential-support-scheme-guide-for-2014-to-2015>

### **Useful websites for more information:**

[The Source](#) – Suffolk Information site for young people

[UCAS Progress](#) - information about post 16 provision

[National Careers Service](#) – information on website, but young people can also contact via text, phone, forums and email

[Access Unlimited](#) – information for SEND children and young people, parents and carers

#### **Other places for support and provision**

[My Go centre](#) – Youth employment centre, Ipswich

[Post 16 Directories](#) – **Informal learning and leisure opportunities** for post 16 young people with SEND. These directories are split into the three areas of North, South and West Suffolk.