

# Post School Opportunities



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**At 16 young people reach the end of compulsory schooling, but this does not have to mean the end of education. All young people have the right to full-time education until they are 19.**

## 1 Prepare



**It is important to start thinking about what choices might be available at the age of 16 well before this day arrives.** The Connexions service is a good source of information about post-16 opportunities.

**When considering options, it is important to think about what the young person needs, and what the option they choose will offer them - do the two match up?**

### **Staying on at school, or moving to another school or sixth form**

**Young people may be able to stay on at their school or go to another school.** Staying on at school after 16 can give young people the time they need to prepare for life after school, whether that means going on to college, getting a job, or other opportunities.

If an individual with a statement of special educational needs stays within a school setting after 16, their statement remains in place, as long as they continue to meet the criteria for having a statement.

**If they move to another school for their 16-19 provision, the Local Education Authority will have to amend the young person's statement to show the new provision.**

### **Getting a job, or going on a training scheme**

**If the young person is thinking about getting a job, then it is important to involve the appropriate agencies at school reviews before they leave.**

Work experience will also be important, as it can help the young person to gain the skills for a vocation and give them a better chance of getting a job.

Section 4 - Employment has further details of opportunities.

### **Going to college**

**People go to college to work towards a vocation and to learn the skills necessary to gain employment.** College can also be a very sociable place, with a range of activities available. Many offer work experience for at least one day a week.

If a young person with a statement leaves school at 16 to go to college, his or her statement lapses at this point. Statements have no legal standing within colleges.

## Higher education at 18

**Going to university gives young people the opportunity to further their academic qualifications in the hope of getting appropriate employment.**

It can also offer many opportunities for socialising and new experiences. Students have to apply through the University and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS). Schools and colleges will have details about application procedures.

Students with disabilities may be able to apply for Disabled Students Allowance. Ask your Connexions Personal Adviser about this, contact SKILL or go to [www.direct.gov.uk](http://www.direct.gov.uk) to find out more. (See also Useful Contacts) Individual universities may be able to offer advice and further support for students.

## 2 What support is available when the statement lapses?



**If the young person stays within a school setting after 16, their statement remains in place for as long as they continue to meet the criteria.** If they leave school to go to college, their statement lapses at that point. However, the information from the statement should be passed on to the college, so that they are aware of the young person's needs. See **Connexions** below.

All Further Education (FE) colleges have a Learning Support Adviser, or someone else responsible for students with disabilities. They can give advice and information.

Colleges also have to have a Disability Statement, which sets out the courses available, and what kind of support there is, for example equipment to help with study and the accessibility of the college. Your son or daughter may need support that is not covered in the Disability Statement. However the college may be able to provide it, so it is worth asking.

Support from Surrey's Physical and Sensory support team (PSS) may also be available through the college. As colleges have to "buy in" this service, they need to know in good time if it will be required by an individual student. Therapies, such as speech therapy, may also be available.

## 3 How to decide which college

**Some young people may have been on a link course with their school which enables them to spend time at the local college as part of their studies.**



Link provision gives young people a taster of what college is like and what it has to offer. It allows colleges to understand better the needs of prospective students, and helps to develop a working relationship between schools and colleges.

It is really important to look at colleges in plenty of time before the young person leaves school. Do not just look at one college.

Colleges have open days or evenings, which give young people and their parent/ carer the chance to look around and talk to tutors. To find out when the next open day is, just call the college. (See Useful Contacts)

However, it may also be a good idea to look round on an ordinary day when students are actually in lessons, in the cafeteria and around the campus.

You will be able to get a better idea of what the college is really like when all the students are there. Ask the college about this.



**It might be a good idea to ask some prepared questions when you look round** – the answers to these might give a better sense of what the college standards are like. See the list of suggested questions below.

You may want to ask if a group of parents or young people can look round together to make you feel more confident about asking the questions.

## Questions to ask



### General:

- Does the college have a Disability Statement?
- How do they ensure that the Disability Statement is implemented / upheld?
- Is the complaints procedure accessible to all students?
- What opportunities are there for students to voice issues that are important to them, e.g. student union?
- Where there is a student union, is this accessible to students with disabilities and / or learning difficulties?
- What links are there between the college and schools?

### When looking at a discrete special needs course:

- What does the course offer, i.e. curriculum, work experience, life skills, travel training, independence training?
- Will the young person have an individual learning plan?
- How many students are there in the group?
- Would the young person have an appropriate peer group?
- Can I see round the teaching area and other college facilities?
- How many days a week would the young person be going to college?
- What activities would be available for the rest of the week?
- What is the length of the college day?

- Are therapies such as speech therapy, physiotherapy, occupational therapy available? (as appropriate)
- Do students have access to all the college facilities?
- Is there supervision for break times?
- What medical support is available if needed?
- Is there provision for support with personal care?
- Is transport available?
- How does the college communicate with parents and carers about the students' progress?
- What reviews system is in place?
- What do students do after they finish the course?

#### 4 The Young Peoples Learning Agency (YPLA)



**The Learning and Skills Council used to be responsible for funding and planning education and training for people over 16 in England.** Since 2010 the YPLA has taken over their funding responsibilities.

#### 5 Connexions



**The Connexions service provides a single point of access for all 13-25 year olds who have or have had a statement of special educational needs, to help them prepare for the transition to adult life.** If an individual has additional needs, the service can remain involved until the age of 25.



**Connexions should ensure that they are aware of all young people with a statement of special educational needs in Year 8. A representative of Connexions must be invited to the Year 9 Annual Review and must attend.**

Connexions should assist the young person and their parents to identify the most appropriate post-16 provision and provide support. The service has responsibility for overseeing the delivery of the Transition Plan once it has been drawn up after the Year 9 review and the Connexions Personal Adviser should co-ordinate its delivery.

Connexions also has a responsibility for ensuring that an assessment of needs is made in the young person's final year of school. This is sometimes called a Moving On Plan or a Section 139a Assessment.

Connexions should also arrange for information to be transferred from school to the continuing education provision (FE college). They should seek permission for this from the student and their parents.

A copy of the Transition Plan, the most recent Annual Review report and a copy of the statement should be passed to Social Services on leaving school. The Connexions service in Surrey is sub-contracted to other organisations.

## 6 Assessment



**When a young person has found a local or specialist residential college that seems suitable, that college will assess them to make sure it can meet his or her needs.**

Although the college may say it can meet their needs, you may not be happy with this decision. You should discuss this with the Connexions Personal Adviser. Local colleges are expanding their provision for learners with special educational needs, and developing partnerships to enable more students to remain close to home, at their local FE college.

You should always ask about the assessment.

For example, if the student will need support with speech and language, if an up-to-date report is not available, will a qualified speech and language therapist be assessing?

A specialist residential placement will only be considered for an individual if it is clear that the local college(s) cannot meet his or her needs.

The young person will need a letter from the college explaining why their needs cannot be met. The Personal Adviser from Connexions can advise on the necessary procedure.

## 7 Funding



**Local authorities are responsible for children and young people with special educational needs until they are 16 or, if they remain in a school, 19.**

This includes the fees of 16-19 year old pupils at non-maintained and independent special schools. If the young person goes to a Further Education college, funding is via the YPLA.

## 8 Specialist / out of area colleges

**The needs of a few students cannot be met at their local college. The funding body may pay for them to go to a specialist college out of area.** This will be discussed at annual reviews.



The Connexions service will be able to give advice about what specialist colleges can offer and how to apply for a place.

Due to the funding implications a lot of information must be collated, including reports from schools, Connexions Personal Advisers and proof that the young person's needs cannot be met at a local sector college.

The local sector college will have to confirm that it cannot meet the individual's needs before a specialist college can be considered.

Best value for money will also be considered.

## What does LOCAL mean?



**In this case, local is the college(s) which the young person could reasonably be expected to travel to.** If these are unable to meet their needs then a specialist college may be considered.

If you are not happy with the decision that is made, you can ask for this decision to be reviewed. It is very important that any assessment carried out fully explains the young person's needs and how best to support them, as this will affect the success of their time at college.

If a specialist college is agreed upon, the YPLA currently (and in future the local authority) may pay all the fees. In some cases, social care may be asked for a contribution for post-19 students if there is a high care component within the costs or if there are high levels of 'exceptional funding' required.

A good organisation to contact for advice about education and going to college is Skill (National Bureau for Students with Disabilities). (See Useful Contacts)

## 9 Transport to and from college



**The Local Education Authority has a duty in law to treat further education students 'no less favourably' than people of the same age studying at their schools - that can be up until the age of 19.**

Each case must be looked at individually and not on policy grounds.

Special Educational Needs (SEN) transport assistance is available until the end of the academic year during which the student becomes 19 years of age if they continue to meet SEN transport criteria. For post-19, pupils and students should initially discuss their transport requirements with Connexions who will advise of potential options.

For some young people with a disability, transport may be the responsibility of Community Care Services subject to assessment and eligibility criteria being met. (See Section 3 - Social Care).



**Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA)** has been withdrawn by the Government from July 2011. No new further applications can now be made, but those students already in receipt of EMA will continue to receive it until the end of the summer term 2011.



## 11 Day services

**Day services are changing in Surrey and across the country, in order to provide more flexible services for individuals.**

Day services were once only provided from day centres. Although many of these buildings remain on the same sites, they often now use community services with a move away from providing all the activities in the day centre.

- For example, a service may support people to attend a college course, or visit a local leisure centre, or attend a social group in the community.
- People can now attend day services part time, to fit around work and other activities.

## Transport

**Transport to and from the service is usually provided, but a charge may be made. Charges can be challenged.** With more localised provision, many of the transport difficulties that are now encountered should greatly improve.

You will need to talk to the young person's care manager about funding for transport. You should do this at least a year ahead of their 19th birthday, and this must be considered as part of the school leaver's plan if he/ she stays on until 19.

## 12 Complex health and support needs

**If your son or daughter has very complex and profound disabilities it can be difficult to find the right support for them when they become an adult and leave their current provision.**



**It is very important to start planning early.** It is also useful to talk to other parents who have been in the same position.

A difficulty that many young people and their parents encounter is that there is not the right provision near their family home.

It may be possible to set a service up locally by talking to appropriate organisations such as housing providers, health authorities/trusts, voluntary organisations and social services. **This needs a lot of early planning and negotiation, and may not be possible to achieve.**

The use of direct payments and self-directed support (See Section 3 - Social Care for more details) could be considered to buy in a tailor-made service for the young person.

There are residential colleges that can support young people with more complex disabilities. Residential/nursing provision should also be looked at as early as possible to ensure that it can meet the young person's needs. The needs of most young people, even for those with complex needs, can be met in supported living where appropriate provision can be made for them.

Day services have specialist provision for people with multiple and profound needs. It is important to look around the different services to see if they can meet the needs and wishes of the young person.

## 13 Equality Act 2010

**This Act covers education providers, including those of Further and Higher Education.**



They have legal responsibilities not to discriminate against, by treating less favourably, a person with a disability, to provide reasonable adjustments for disabled learners. to introduce auxiliary aids and services, and to make changes to buildings which put disabled students at a substantial disadvantage.

This includes matters relating to admissions, exclusions, and associated services (including outings, homework, accommodation etc) which are provided specifically for students.

The Equality and Human Rights Commission can advise further (See Useful Contacts).

# Useful Contacts

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## National

### Young Peoples Learning Agency (YPLA)

**Address:** Cheylesmore House  
Quinton Road  
Coventry CV1 2WT

**Telephone:** 0845 337 2000

**For learners:** 0800 121 8989

**E-mail:** enquiries @ypla.gov.uk

**Website:** www.ypla.gov.uk

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### The Association of National Specialist Colleges (NATSPEC)

**Address:** Derwen College  
Oswestry  
Shropshire  
SY11 3JA

**Telephone:** 01509 814827

**Email:** enquiries@homefieldcollege.ac.uk

**Website:** www.natspec.org.uk

Colleges which are members of NATSPEC offer education and training for young people and adults with learning difficulties or disabilities. Training and education takes place in enabling and supportive settings, often residential. You can look at NATSPEC's directory of member colleges online, or ask them for a copy.

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### Skill: National Bureau for Students with Disabilities

**Address:** Unit 3  
Radisson Court  
219 Long Lane  
London SE1 4PR

**Telephone:** 0800 328 5050 or 020 7657 2337

**SMS text service (for young people aged 16-21):** 07786 208020

**Email:** info@skill.org.uk

**Website:** www.skill.org.uk

Information and advice about vocational, further and higher education, student allowances, training and employment opportunities, for young people and adults over 16 years with any kind of impairment.

## Equality and Human Rights Commission (formerly Disability Rights Commission)

**Address:** 3 More London  
Riverside Tooley Street  
London SE1 2RG

**Telephone:** 0845 604 6610

**Email:** [info@equalityhumanrights.com](mailto:info@equalityhumanrights.com)

**Website:** [www.equalityhumanrights.com](http://www.equalityhumanrights.com)

Gives advice and information to disabled people, employers and service providers. Supports disabled people in getting their rights under the Equality Act.

They can often help to solve problems through mediation, i.e. without the need for going to court or employment tribunal. All statutes and guidance relating to equality available from the website.

## Moving On Up

**Website:** [www.movingonup.info](http://www.movingonup.info)

A website for young people with learning disabilities with easy to read pages on many topics relating to transition.

The site is designed to be accessible for young people from minority ethnic communities, and the pages are translated into various community languages as well as English.

## Learn Direct

**Telephone:** 0800 101 901

**Website:** [www.learndirect.co.uk](http://www.learndirect.co.uk)

This is a free and confidential telephone helpline and website for people looking for impartial information and advice on courses and careers. Open 7am - 11pm every day

## Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS)

**Address:** Customer Service Unit  
UCAS  
PO Box 28  
Cheltenham GL52 3LZ.

**Telephone:** 0871 468 0468

**Email:** [enquiries@ucas.ac.uk](mailto:enquiries@ucas.ac.uk)

**Website:** [www.ucas.ac.uk](http://www.ucas.ac.uk)

UCAS is the central organisation that processes applications for full-time undergraduate courses at UK universities and colleges.

## Disabled Students Allowance

The Department for Education publish a booklet called Bridging the Gap: A guide to the Disabled Students Allowances (DSAs) in Higher Education' which is available from the DirectGov website at [www.direct.gov.uk](http://www.direct.gov.uk)

You can also get a copy by calling their information line on 0800 731 9133.

Braille and large print versions of the guide are also available from this number.

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### Local

#### Jobcentre Plus

Local Jobcentre Plus offices have a Disability Employment Adviser who will be able to give information and help about government initiatives and local employment.

**Telephone:** 0845 604 3719

**Website:** [www.jobcentreplus.gov.uk](http://www.jobcentreplus.gov.uk)

#### Jobcentre Plus Camberley

**Address:** Parkgate  
185-7 London Road  
Camberley  
Surrey GU15 3JS

#### Jobcentre Plus Epsom

**Address:** 50 East Street  
Epsom  
Surrey  
KT17 1HQ

#### Jobcentre Plus Guildford

**Address:** Leys House  
86-88 Woodbridge Road  
Guildford GU1 4QD

#### Jobcentre Plus Staines

**Address:** 62 London Road  
Staines  
TW18 4HB

#### Jobcentre Plus Weybridge

**Address:** Fortune House  
Monument Hill  
Weybridge, Surrey  
KT13 8RZ

#### Jobcentre Plus Redhill

**Address:** 15 London Road  
Redhill  
Surrey  
RH1 1BQ

#### Jobcentre Plus Woking

**Address:** 15-29 Goldsworth Road  
Woking  
GU21 6JZ

## Adult Education

**Telephone:** 03456 009 009

**Website:** [www.surreycc.gov.uk](http://www.surreycc.gov.uk)

Surrey County Council's Contact Centre will be able to give you details of Adult Learning Courses and Centres in your area. Alternatively follow the links to Adult Learning on Surrey's website.

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## Local Connexions Offices

**Connexions now has 2 administrative offices, covering the east and the west of the county.**

**Website:** [www.connexionssurrey.co.uk](http://www.connexionssurrey.co.uk)

### West Surrey Connexions Team

**Address:** Sutton House  
Weyside Park  
Cotteshall Lane  
Godalming  
Surrey GU7 1XP

**Telephone:** 01483 413207

### East Surrey Connexions Team

**Address:** 83 East Street  
Epsom  
Surrey  
KT17 1DN

**Telephone:** 01372 722291

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## List of Local Colleges

### Sixth Form Colleges

#### Esher College

**Address:** Weston Green Road  
Thames Ditton KT7 0JB

**Telephone:** 020 8398 0291

**Website:** [www.esh.ac.uk](http://www.esh.ac.uk)

#### Reigate College

**Address:** Castlefield Road  
Reigate RH2 0SD

**Telephone:** 01737 221118

**Website:** [www.reigate.ac.uk](http://www.reigate.ac.uk)

#### Farnham College

**Address:** Morley Road  
Farnham GU9 8LU

**Telephone:** 01252 716988

**Website:** [www.farnham.ac.uk](http://www.farnham.ac.uk)

#### Strode's College

**Address:** High Street  
Egham TW20 9DR

**Telephone:** 01784 437506

**Website:** [www.strodes.ac.uk](http://www.strodes.ac.uk)

**Godalming College**

**Address:** Tuesley Lane  
Godalming GU7 1RS

**Telephone:** 01483 423526

**Website:** [www.godalming.ac.uk](http://www.godalming.ac.uk)

**Woking College**

**Address:** Rydens Way  
Woking GU22 9DL

**Telephone:** 01483 761036

**Website:** [www.woking.ac.uk](http://www.woking.ac.uk)

**Colleges of Further & Higher Education****Brooklands College Weybridge Campus**

**Address:** Heath Road  
Weybridge  
Surrey KT13 8TT

**Telephone:** 01932 797700

**Website:** [www.brooklands.ac.uk](http://www.brooklands.ac.uk)

**Brooklands College Ashford Campus**

(previously known as Spelthorne College)

**Address:** Church Road  
Ashford TW15 2XD

**Telephone:** 01932 797700

**Website:** [www.brooklands.ac.uk](http://www.brooklands.ac.uk)

**Guildford College**

**Address:** Stoke Park Campus  
Stoke Road  
Guildford GU1 1EZ

**Telephone:** 01483 448500

**Website:** [www.guildford.ac.uk](http://www.guildford.ac.uk)

**Email:** [info@guildford.ac.uk](mailto:info@guildford.ac.uk)

**Website:** [www.guildford.ac.uk](http://www.guildford.ac.uk)

**Guildford College – Merrist Wood Campus**

**Address:** Merrist Wood College  
Worplesdon  
Guildford  
Surrey GU3 3PE

**Telephone:** 01483 88 40 00

**Email:** [mwinfo@guildford.ac.uk](mailto:mwinfo@guildford.ac.uk)

**Website:** [www.guildford.ac.uk](http://www.guildford.ac.uk)

## **East Surrey College**

**Address:** Claremont Road  
Gatton Point  
Redhill RH1 2JX

**Telephone:** 01737 772611

**Website:** [www.esc.ac.uk](http://www.esc.ac.uk)

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## **North East Surrey College of Technology (NESCOT)**

**Address:** Reigate Road  
Ewell  
Epsom KT17 3DS

**Telephone:** 020 8394 1731

**Website:** [www.nescot.ac.uk](http://www.nescot.ac.uk)

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## **Surrey Institute of Art & Design - University College for the Creative Arts**

**Address:** Farnham Campus  
Falkner Road  
The Hart  
Farnham  
GU9 7DS

**Telephone:** 01252 722441

**Website:** [www.ucreative.ac.uk](http://www.ucreative.ac.uk)

