

Post-16 Options for Young People with SEND Guide

Navigating post-16 education for young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) can seem challenging, but by starting to consider these options from Year 9, and with the right information and support, you can make informed decisions that best suit your young person's needs and ambitions for the future.

This guide aims to simplify the process, covering key areas such as types of post-16 options (including the application process), the SEN consultation process and transport.

Throughout the guide you will find links for further information and a frequently asked questions section. On the final page you will find a summary timeline to support you.

1. Understanding Post-16 Education Options

- **Courses:** Colleges and post-16 providers offer a range of courses available at different levels. [Year 11 Career Options - Overview](#) can provide more information on each one.
- Foundation courses are designed to help young people with SEND develop skills for further education or employment. They often focus on life skills, vocational training, employment and/or academic subjects.
- **Colleges:** Many colleges in Hampshire offer specialised support for young people with SEND. It is important to research and visit potential colleges to understand the support they provide. The 'Checklist for visiting colleges' leaflet, which can be found on the SEND Employability VPN page may be useful when planning a visit: [Course: SEND Employability | Hampshire PALL](#). There is also a resource on the page that will help you understand what support colleges can offer young people with SEND: 'Going to College with SEND'
- **Apprenticeships:** Rapid Reads offer guidance on finding an inclusive employer, application support, functional skills and the types of on-programme support available for apprentices with additional needs: [SEND - Amazing Apprenticeships](#)
- This is my story film collection, following inspirational stories of apprentices with learning differences, disabilities and health conditions: [This Is My Story - Amazing Apprenticeships](#)

2. Applying to colleges or an apprenticeship

- **College application process:** Each college will have its own application process. Generally, this involves filling out an application form, providing details of your young person's Education, Health and Care Plan (EHC Plan), and possibly attending an interview or assessment day.



- Timeline to applying to college can be found here: [Timeline for College Applications](#). Please note, some colleges have different closing dates and if your young person has an EHC plan, we recommend you also speak to their EHC Coordinator.
- **Apprenticeships application process:** Use the [Find an apprenticeship - GOV.UK](#) to search for an apprenticeship. If you would like a Disability Confident employer, you can filter your search results by ticking this box:

Disability Confident scheme

Companies that have committed to support people with disabilities and long-term health conditions

Only show Disability Confident companies

Apply filters

- If you are looking for an inclusive employer, this rapid read may be helpful: [Rapid Read: A guide to finding an inclusive employer - Amazing Apprenticeships](#)
- Timeline for applying for an apprenticeship can be found here: [Timeline for Apprenticeship Applications](#)

3. SEN Consultation Process for Post-16 Placements

- **Phase transfer review:** Before your young person transitions to post-16 education, their EHC Plan will be reviewed to ensure it reflects their current needs and aspirations. The process is the same as the annual review process but for this review, the focus is on the transition to the next education setting and all plans must be amended by 31st March. This review should involve you, your young person, and professionals from their current school and potential post-16 placements.

You can find out further information about phase transfer reviews and the timescales here: [Phase transfer reviews](#)

Further information on annual reviews can be found here: [Annual Review of an Education, Health and Care \(EHC\) Plan | Hampshire CTSH](#)

- **Consultation with Colleges:** The local authority will consult with the colleges you are considering to determine if they can meet your young person's needs as outlined in their EHC Plan.
- You should complete a college application alongside this process.

- Parents/carers/young people can log on to the EHC hub and find the contact details of their allocated EHC Coordinator.

4. Transport Access

- **Eligibility:** At post-16, your young person may get transport only if they have SEND and your family is low-income. Support may also be given in exceptional cases, and some students may need to complete Independent Travel Training or have a parent act as a Passenger Assistant if appropriate. [School Transport and Post-16 Transport](#)
- **Application:** You must apply every year and provide evidence showing why your young person cannot travel independently and why the family cannot provide transport. Each application is assessed individually, with the Council able to offer support outside the policy in special circumstances. [Apply for post-16 transport for young people with SEND](#)
- **Cost:** All families receiving Post-16 SEND transport must make a financial contribution. The contribution amount is reviewed yearly and confirmed when a transport place is offered.

5. Additional Support and Resources

- **Local Offer:** The Hampshire Local Offer website provides information on services and support available for young people with SEND and their families: [Hampshire's Local Offer](#)
- **Parent Support Groups:** Connecting with other parents through local support groups can provide valuable insights and support. Visit [Hampshire Parent and Carer Network | about-us](#) for more information.
- **Hampshire SENDIASS:** Provides timely confidential, impartial information, advice and support. You can find out more by visiting [Hampshire SENDIASS - Special Educational Needs Support](#).

6. Frequently Asked Questions

Hampshire schools and colleges have told us these are the questions parents and carers often ask them about transition at Post-16. We hope our answers will help you, however if you have further questions, please contact your EHC Coordinator. You can find their contact details by logging onto the EHC Hub.

- **If there are limitations on the grade that a young person might achieve in Maths and English, what happens if they are not able to progress past Level 1 courses?**

It is important to discuss progression plans with your young person's college. Supported internships are a good bridge between education and employment. Further information can be found here: [Supported Internship Programme | Hampshire CTSH](#)

- **Where do we find apprenticeships at Entry Level starting point?**

Please see information above on how to find an apprenticeship. This process is the same for all levels. However, if you are looking for an inclusive employer, this rapid read may be helpful: [Rapid Read: A guide to finding an inclusive employer - Amazing Apprenticeships](#)

- **What happens when a SEND provision is only 3 days per week, what does our child do for the other two days?**

Some colleges offer enrichment activities that might appeal to your young person. You can also speak to your SEN service for further information and visit the Hampshire Local Offer to find out what is on around your area: [Hampshire's Local Offer](#)

- **How does an EHC plan support in college?**

This information leaflet will advise of the support your child can expect in college: [Going to college with SEND](#)

- **Is it a given a young person gains specialist funding at Post-16?**

It would depend on whether the colleges feel they can meet your young person's needs within the current funding they receive.

- **How long can an EHC plan remain in place?**

An EHC plan will remain in place for as long as the support is required.

- **Will the EHC plan cease at university?**

If a young person starts a higher education (Level 4+) course, the LA will usually cease to maintain the EHCP. This information leaflet outlines the support your young person can receive at university: [Going to University with SEND.pdf](#). You may also find this helpful: [Disabled Students | Advice And Financial Support | UCAS](#)

- **Why is Year 9 important to start thinking about post-16 options and what is Preparing for Adulthood?**



From Year 9 onwards, Hampshire County Council must make sure that the annual review meeting considers what provision is required to help your child to prepare for adulthood and independent living. This is a legal duty found in regulation 20(6) and regulation 21(6) of The SEN and Disability Regulations 2014 (The SEND Regulations 2014). The Local Offer has a section on Preparing for Adulthood to support your young person: [Preparation for Adulthood](#)

- **How and when should we start visiting post-16 providers?**

It is a good idea to start visiting post-16 providers from Yr10 onwards. The summer term of Yr10 is usually when schools will increase the focus on your young person's careers education and they may also take part in a work experience placement.

You may find resources on this page useful: [Resources for Students and Families](#)

- **Who are the key professionals who can help us with this process?**

During this process you will be supported by your young person's EHC Coordinator, their current school, careers advisers, and the colleges they are considering attending. The Local Offer also has lots of online information to support you: [Hampshire's Local Offer](#)

- **How can my young person start exploring their interests and strengths related to their future options?**

All schools should offer careers education as part of their curriculum, and this will include activities for young people to explore their interests and strengths. Work experience and career guidance interviews will also support this process.

- **How to navigate the transition from child to adult services? What benefits/ financial support is available?**

The Independent Futures Team supports young people to make the transition from childhood to adult social care, to increase their independence and to plan for the future. Further information is available here: [Independent Futures Team](#)

- **Are there any local support groups for parents/ carers during this transition? Yes. Hampshire SENDIASS, Hampshire Parent Carer Network (HPCN) and the Local Offer can all support parents & carers:**

[Hampshire SENDIASS - Special Educational Needs Support.](#)

[Hampshire Parent and Carer Network | about-us](#)

[Hampshire's Local Offer](#)

- **What transport support is available?**

Please see information above. In addition, some college courses will include travel training to support your person to learn how to travel independently.

- **How many days a week is college?**

Most colleges courses are over three or four days. These might not be full days – colleges do not run to traditional school day times. You might be in all day or just a morning or afternoon. On some practical courses, you might have sessions in the evening (e.g. hairdressing or hospitality) reflecting that industry.

- **Does that mean I am in full time education or not?**

Yes – a college course still counts as a full-time course. There is an expectation that you will be doing work experience hours and assignment work when you are not physically in college.

- **Will I still have to do Maths and English at college?**

The Government state that if young people do not achieve grade 4 in GCSE (or equivalent), then they have to continue this at college until they are 19 (or up to 25 if they have an EHC Plan). Colleges will add English and Maths lessons to your timetable.

- **My EHC Plan has 15 hours of support a week in it – is this enough for college?**

Hampshire EHC Plan no longer refer to hours of support. The local authority will consult with local colleges and agree appropriate levels of support/funding with them to ensure that provision outlined in Section F of your EHC Plan is met.

- **I have an EHC Plan, so can I stay in college till I am 25?**

Young people with EHC Plans may need longer in education or training in order to achieve their outcomes and make an effective transition into adulthood. However, this position does not mean that there is an automatic entitlement to continued support at age 19 or an expectation that those with an EHC Plan should all remain in education until age 25.

An LA may cease an EHC Plan for a 19- to 25-year-old if it decides that it is no longer necessary for the EHC Plan to be maintained. Such circumstances include where the young person no longer requires the special educational provision specified in their EHC Plan.

In deciding that the special educational provision is no longer required, the local authority must have regard to whether the educational or training outcomes specified in the EHC Plan have been achieved.



- **I had access arrangements at school, will these carry over at college?**

Colleges can continue access arrangements, but they do not automatically carry over. You will need to talk to the college's assessor, and it is possible that you will need to be re-assessed. It is important to get this in place early on in your time at college.

- **I get free school meals at school, will these carry over at college?**

Colleges do not automatically get told who had free school meals at school. They have funding for Free College Meals, but you must apply for a bursary following the college's own systems.

- **Can I do just English & Maths at College?**

No – as until you are 19, you must be in some kind of full time Education. Please see above for options of what this could be.

- **Can College carry out tests or diagnoses for a learning need?**

In order for parents to get a diagnosis of learning disabilities or SEND for their young person they will need to contact a medical practitioner, such as their GP or CAMHS.

Colleges are unable to test for conditions such as autism, dyslexia or ADHD in college. However, it is not always necessary for a young person to have a diagnosis in order for colleges to support them. Many parents seek a diagnosis as it can be helpful when seeking support and understanding more about their young person's needs.

Colleges know that no two young people are alike, and so although a diagnosis may be helpful, it does not tell us all we need to know about a child.

Timeline for Supporting Young People with SEND in Transition to Post-16 Options



2. Year 10 (Age 14-15)

Research Post-16 Options:

Start exploring potential [colleges and courses](#). Visit open days and gather information about the support available.

Transport Planning:

Investigate transport options and [eligibility criteria for post-16](#) education. Begin considering how your child will travel to their chosen placement.

4. Post-16 (Age 16+)

Ongoing support: Continue to review the EHC plan annually, and update where appropriate, to ensure it meets the young person's evolving needs. Maintain regular communication with the education provider to monitor progress and address any issues.

1. Year 9 (Age 13-14)

Annual Review Meeting: The EHC Plan is updated to reflect current needs and aspirations. This will be the beginning of discussions about post-16 options and the preparing for adulthood principles (please see below).

Person-Centred Planning: Focus will be on the young person's goals in areas such as employment, independent living, community inclusion, and health.

3. Year 11 (Age 15-16)

Autumn Term:

College Applications: Begin the application process for colleges and inform your young person's EHC Coordinator of their plans.

EHC Plan Review: The EHC Coordinator will update the young person's EHC Plan, ensure it reflects the young person's current needs and aspirations.

Spring Term:

Consultation with Colleges: The local authority will consult with the colleges to determine if they can meet your young person's needs. You and your young person can attend any interviews or assessment days required by the colleges.

Transport Application: Submit the travel request form for transport assistance. Ensure this is done before the deadline, typically by the end of June.

Summer Term:

Final Preparations: Confirm post-16 placement and transport arrangements. Ensure all necessary support is in place for a smooth transition.