

LEARNING IS CHANGING

Information for parents and carers on raising the participation age



From 2013 - it will be a legal requirement for all young people to remain in some form of learning or training up to **17 years of age**.

From 2015 - young people will be required to remain in learning or training **up to 18 years of age**.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

If your child was born **on or after the 1 September 1996** they will be amongst the first to be required to continue in education or training beyond 16.

If they complete their year 11 learning in 2013 they must continue learning until July 2014.

If they complete their year 11 in or after 2014 they will continue learning at least until their 18th birthday.

WHAT'S IN IT FOR THEM?

Staying in learning will give them many advantages including:

- Making it easier to find and stay in a job
- Having the ability to earn and give them a greater choice of career path
- Being able to compete in the future job market
- Different ways of learning that are linked to what they want to do in the future such as run a business, go to university, do an apprenticeship

HOW CAN I SUPPORT MY CHILD TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THESE CHANGES?

You can help your child by talking to them about the benefits of staying in education after 16 and what learning style might suit them best. One size does not fit all and that's why there are lots of choices out there for your child.

WHY?

By staying in learning they can gain the qualifications they need to help them to succeed. They'll also have more chance to develop the knowledge and practical skills that employers are looking for. This means they'll find it easier to get a better job, with better pay and career prospects. They can do this very flexibly – they can stay in school or college if they want to, but there are other choices available.

Their choices at 16:

- Further Education College
- Sixth Form
- Apprenticeship
- Independent Providers
- Work with training
- Self-employment with training
- Volunteering with training

QUESTIONS?

Can they volunteer?

They can volunteer for 20+ hours and can study independently alongside this worthwhile work.

Do they have to stay at school?

No. They may still leave school at 16 and access learning through college or work based learning.

Where can they learn?

There are many ways to access learning and training. They can choose a further education college or a school 6th form. There are other different types of qualifications, such as vocations, life and work skills, foundation learning as well as a range of GCSEs, AS and A levels. Or they may prefer to gain qualifications while training with an employer.

Can they get a job?

They can get a job only if they are also doing some accredited learning alongside it. This may be through an apprenticeship scheme, work based learning, or they may work part-time and attend college outside of their working hours.

Can they train to do a job?

Yes. If they know the career they wish to follow they may choose a specialist training provider. They offer work experience alongside key qualifications specific to that career. Or how about an apprenticeship? There are nearly 200 different job roles available as apprenticeships under which they will be training either on site or at college.

Can they do nothing?

No. The purpose of raising the participation age is to provide every young person with more time to develop the skills required to follow a successful career and working life. To find the best way for them to learn and develop their skills.

Can they earn whilst they are learning?

Yes, for example the pay for an apprentice may start at £92.50 per week.

MORE INFORMATION

www.inspira.org.uk

www.apprenticeships.org.uk

www.cumbria.gov.uk

If you would like this information in another format or language please contact:

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