

Education

Further education

Please also access the information in the Transition area of our website.

Leaving school

In year 9 all pupils who have an EHCP must have a review specifically looking at preparing for adulthood.

This is often known as transition planning. At this point you and your son or daughter should be looking amongst other things at the options for post 16 education. Even if the current school caters for pupils up to age 19, it is still important to plan early. All schools have a duty to provide independent careers advice for pupils age 13 upwards.

Some of the options may be:

- 16+ course in a special school – this is likely to have a focus on practical lifeskills
- Mainstream school sixth form – some but not all school sixth forms provide vocational courses and foundation learning.
- Course in a sixth form college or general FE college. This may be a separate course for people who have learning disabilities focussing on practical skills for life and work. You could also look at additional support on a mainstream vocational course.
- Specialist college (also known as Independent Specialist Provider or ISP) – many but not all of these colleges are residential
- A supported internship or other work-related learning

Extra help in college

Colleges have now been brought within the remit of legislation relating to special educational needs and disabilities. Colleges must have regard to the Code of Practice on SEND. They must do their best to ensure that students' needs are met and must plan and deliver appropriate support.

As with younger children, you should make sure that everyone teaching your son or daughter is informed about the specific learning profile of young people who have Down's syndrome. It may be useful to help your son or daughter draw up a one-page profile with the most important information about them. This can be shared, with their permission, with teaching staff and supporters.

Curriculum and assessment

The curriculum for all 16-19 year olds and for 19-24 year olds with special educational needs or disabilities must follow the government guidelines on Study Programmes. A study programme should include:

- Opportunity to progress
- Decent sized qualification
- Maths and English (this can be practical literacy and numeracy)
- Non-qualification activity and work experience

However, study programmes can be very flexible for students with SEND. For example not all students will be able to undertake a major qualification. Preparing for Adulthood has lots of useful resources; see under Further information, below.

Some young people who have Down's syndrome will be able to attain vocational qualifications such as BTEC. However all young people should have access to some form of accreditation such as pre-entry and entry level certificates or the ASDAN programmes for students who have learning difficulties. It's important to check with the college what kind of qualification will be on offer to your son or daughter.

Further help and information

The Information Team at the DSA is happy to answer your education related queries.

Please call the helpline on 0333 1212 300 or email info@downs-syndrome.org.uk

WorkFit

Our employment programme – connecting employers and employees who have Down's syndrome.



**WorkFit supports
employment
opportunities in ALL
industries and sectors.**

No limits, no problem!

**#disabilityemploymentgap
#CONNECT #HiringChain**



Other organisations

[NATSPEC](#)

Association of National Specialist Colleges

[Preparing for adulthood](#)

Programme funded by the Department for Education to support the SEND reforms. There are lots of useful resources on this site.

Contact us

t. 0333 1212 300

Down's Syndrome Association
Langdon Down Centre
2a Langdon Park
Teddington
Middlesex
TW11 9PS

e. info@downs-syndrome.org.uk

w. downs-syndrome.org.uk

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