

Towards Independence

Leaving school - what next?



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Introduction

A disabled young person can leave school at any point between 16 or 19 years of age. When you leave will depend on your plans for the future.





These plans will be discussed at every Annual Review from Year 9 onwards.



This guide will give you information on the different choices you can make once you leave school.



Before leaving school you will have made choices about what you want to do next.

Some of your options include:

-  • Remaining at school in the 6th form
-  • Further education in a local college
-  • Specialist college - residential or day
-  • Employment and training

This guide explains each of these options in more detail.

Each section will tell you:

-  • What it means
-  • Who can help?
-  • Contact information



Staying at school after 16

If a disabled young person attends a mainstream or special school and stays on post 16 their statement of Special Educational Needs will continue.

This means that the Local Authority may fund their place.

In Post 16 education, students should be given opportunities to become more independent, make more choices and develop life skills to prepare them for life after school.

In Kingston 10 mainstream schools offer courses for young people over 16. The schools can give you more information on what they can offer.

There are also two special schools in Kingston that offer Post 16 provision:

St Philips School in Chessington - for young people with general learning difficulties



Harrow Close
Chessington
KT9 2HR

Tel: 020 8397 2672

Email: PHS@rbksch.org

Website: www.stphilips.kingston.sch.uk



LEAVING SCHOOL - WHAT NEXT?

Dysart School in Surbiton- for young people with severe/complex learning difficulty and/or autistic spectrum disorder



190 Ewell Road
Surbiton
KT6 6HL

Tel: 020 8412 2600

Email: dys@rbksch.org

Website: www.dysartschool.org.uk

Some young people may also look at 6th form placements that are attached to schools that are not in the Kingston borough, but are instead in a neighbouring borough.

Schools welcome visits from prospective students and their families. However any placement will need to be discussed at your Annual Review and agreed with the Local Authority.

The option of 6th form will be discussed in your Annual Reviews. If you want to continue on to 6th form then make sure that you let people know at your review.

Alternatively, for general advice about applying for 6th forms with a statement of SEN you can contact Admissions:



Tel: 020 8547 4610

Email: school.admissions@rbk.kingston.gov.uk

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The best start in life for every young person

Your **Connexions** Personal Advisor will also be able to support you with looking at 6th form options.



Connexions Kingston
Kingston Centre
Argyll House, 23 Brook Street,
Kingston Upon Thames
KT1 2BN

Tel: 020 8082 6840

Or you can use the Connexions Direct website:

www.connexions-direct.com



Local further education colleges



Some students choose to go to a Local College. This is a college you go to in the day time, near to where you live.

Some students choose to go to a Local College at 16. Others choose to go after post 16 or even later in adulthood.



Your statement of SEN will end when you leave school. Therefore the LEA will not fund any college fees.

connexions Your Connexions Personal Advisor may be able to give you information on ways to get funding for college fees and on what courses are available.

Local Colleges offer a range of courses open to Post 16 students. Courses can be full or part time.

These courses range from Life Skills/Skills for Working Life courses through to NVQ, GCSE and A-Level courses.

Some courses are designed for those who need more support to learn.

Young people with a disability would need to meet the same entry criteria as all other students for these courses.



However, additional support may be available for note-taking, access, or for a support worker.

LEAVING SCHOOL - WHAT NEXT?

You can ask the colleges for information on what they can offer you. You can look at their websites or at their prospectus' to get more information.

Some local colleges to consider are:

Kingston College



Kingston Hall Road
Kingston Upon Thames
Surrey
KT1 2AQ

Tel: 020 8546 2151

Email: info@kingston-college.ac.uk

Website: www.kingston-college.ac.uk

Kingston College also has a Skills Centre that is for disabled adults that need more support.

The Skills Centre can be contacted directly:



Tel: 020 8547 6729 (Monday to Thursday)

Richmond College



Egerton Road
Twickenham
Middlesex
TW2 7JS

Tel: 020 8607 8000

Email: courses@rutc.ac.uk

Website: www.rutc.ac.uk

LEAVING SCHOOL - WHAT NEXT?

South Thames College- Merton Campus



Morden Park
London Road
Morden
Surrey
SM4 5QX

Tel: 020 8408 6500

Minicom:
020 640 0428

Email:
info@merton.ac.uk

Website:
www.merton.ac.uk

Carshalton College



Nightingale Road
Carshalton
Surrey
SM5 2EJ

Tel: 020 8544 4444

Email:
cs@carshalton.ac.uk

Website:
www.carshalton.ac.uk

Brooklands College



Weybridge Campus
Heath Road
Weybridge
Surrey
KT13 8TT

Tel: 01932 797 700

Email:
info@brooklands.ac.uk

Website:
www.brooklands.ac.uk

Nescot



Reigate Road
Ewell
Epsom
KT17 3DS

Tel: 020 8394 3038

Email:
info@nescot.ac.uk

Website:
www.nescot.ac.uk



Specialist colleges – day or residential



Some disabled young people need more support than can be given at a local college.

For these people a specialist college can be a better option.

Some of these are day colleges. You attend during the day and go home afterwards.

Most of them are residential colleges. This means that you live at the college for some or all of the time whilst you are learning.

To get funding for a specialist college you will need to show that you are not able to access a local college.



Specialist Colleges can be found throughout England. Finding the right college for you can take time.



It is important to start looking early if you want to attend a Specialist College as they often have waiting lists.

connexions Your Connexions Personal Advisor can advise you about specialist colleges and seeking funding for them.

Further information about specialist colleges can also be found in the NATSPEC directory: **www.natspec.org.uk**



Employment and training



Some disabled young people prefer to work when they finish school. This can be when they are 16 or 19.


Other disabled young people will want to look for work after they finish college.

Work can be full time or part time. It can be paid work or voluntary.

Some disabled young people will need support to help them find and access work.

There are Government schemes that can help with training and finding a job:

- New Deal for Disabled People
- Apprenticeships
- Workstep
- E2E schemes
- Access to Work
- Princes Trust

Your local Jobcentre Plus  or Connexions Personal Advisor **connexions** will be able to give you more information on these schemes and how they can help you.

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Connexions

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Connexions Kingston
Kingston Centre
Argyll House
23 Brook Street
Kingston Upon Thames
KT1 2BN

Tel: 020 8082 6840

Website: www.connexions-direct.com

Jobcentre Plus



3 Brook Street
Kingston Upon Thames
Surrey
KT1 2EY

Tel: 0845 604 3719

Text phone: 020 8250 2861

Website: www.jobcentreplus.gov.uk

LEAVING SCHOOL - WHAT NEXT?

There are also other organisations in Kingston that can give you advice and support with finding employment.

Kingston Workstart

Support to find paid and voluntary work and work experience, including supported employment.



Sherwood Centre
Warren Road
Kingston Upon Thames
Surrey
KT2 7HY

Tel: 020 8547 6635

Website:

Kingston Volunteer Centre

Help to find voluntary work in Kingston upon Thames.



Siddeley House
50 Canbury Park Road
Kingston Upon Thames
Surrey
KT2 6LX

Tel: 020 8255 8685

Email: volunteering@kvc.org.uk

Website: www.kvc.org.uk

Work Based Activities for People with Learning Disabilities

This service, part of Kingston's day services, supports adults with learning disabilities to access meaningful work based activities such as gardening projects, cafe/coffee shops etc.

For more information contact the Work Based Activities Manager:

Tel: 020 8255 8685

There are also other projects in Kingston that offer voluntary or paid employment for people with learning difficulties.

More details about these projects and the support that can be offered by the Community Learning Disability Team can be found on their website: **www.kingstonld.info**