

## Post-16 Frequently Asked Questions

Leaving school is a big event. It is the beginning of the next exciting stage of a young person's life, but what comes next and how might things be different than school? This document hopes to answer some of the common questions you may have regarding post-16 provision.

### **1. What can my child do when they leave school?**

Since 2013 it is a legal requirement that young people remain in education or training up until the age of 18. When a young person leaves school at 16 they must:

- Stay in full time education, for example at a college (A-levels, Vocational Course)
- Start an apprenticeship, traineeship or supported internship
- Spend 20 hours a week working or volunteering, whilst in part-time education or training.

Whatever the young person chooses to do next, they will have to continue to study English and/or maths unless they achieve a grade 4 GCSE or Level 2 functional skills. This will be studied alongside their chosen main course.

The course available to the young person may be dependent on qualifications that have been achieved by the end of year 11. These are called entry requirements. Post-16 courses run at different levels that range from Entry Level, Level 1, Level 2 and Level 3. The young person will be advised on what level course would be the most appropriate for them.

### **2. Who can help support with my child's next step into post 16 provision?**

In year 9 and 10, all young people have the opportunity to meet with an advisor called Angie-Nelson Shepherd from the CSW Group who will provide independent advice and guidance and explain what options are available to them when they leave school. In year 10 they will fill in an options appraisal form to record key information from the meeting. This will include what type of provision the young person would like to go to and what type of course they would like to do. This information is then shared with parents/guardians or carers and shared with the local authority. If a young person wants something that is not possible then further discussions will take place with the child and parents, guardians or carers to identify suitable alternative options. If in year 11, post 16 provision has yet to be secured or circumstances/plans have changed, CSW will continue to work with the school, the young person and parents, guardians and carers to identify alternative suitable provision.

### **3. My child attended school for 5 days per week. Will this be the same when they leave?**

No. 12 or more hours per week of study during a term time is regarded as full time education. Many post 16 providers will timetable 14 to 16 hours per week which equates to approximately 3 days. Some may be 3 day blocks, some may split over 5 days but may include shorter days or staggered timetables. Apprenticeships, traineeships and T-levels will require longer hours as they are predominantly delivered in the workplace.

Some young people, because of their special educational needs and disabilities, will need to have a full package of provision and support arranged across education, health and care that covers five

days a week. Five-day packages of provision are not about having teaching all day every day. A young person may not go to the same place every day. They do not have to be at one provider (but are registered with one named provider that is responsible for all strands of their provision) and could involve amounts of time at different providers and in different settings. A package of provision can include things like:

- volunteering or community participation
- work experience
- opportunities to develop skills for adulthood like independent travel training, and/or skills for living in semi-supported or independent accommodation
- training to develop and maintain friendships and/or access facilities in the local community

Cornwall has a list of supplementary provisions that learners can apply for that would work alongside their main post 16 provision. These need to be requested by the parent/guardian or carer to their SEN caseworker and will be considered on an individual basis before funding is approved.

#### 4. Does a post 16 provider like a college have to accept my child if they have an EHCP?

No. Before an FE college, sixth form college or specialist post 16 provider is named on a child's EHCP, the Local Authority must consult with that provider to give them an opportunity to consider whether and how they may be able to meet the young person's needs. If they do not believe, even using their best endeavours and making reasonable adjustments as required in law that they can meet those needs, they will need to give reasons for this to the Local Authority. It will be down to the Local Authority as to whether to name the provider in the young person's plan following consultation. It must do this unless:

- The college is unsuitable for the age, ability, aptitude or special educational need of the young person,
- Or the attendance of the young person at the college would be incompatible with the provision of efficient education for others or the efficient use of resources.

Once a college has been named in an EHC Plan it is under a duty, under the Children and Families Act 2014, to admit the young person unless there is significant change in the young person's plan or needs.

#### 5. My child/ward gets a taxi to school. Will this continue when they leave to go into post 16 education and training?

Not necessarily. The local authority do not have a legal duty to provide transport beyond year 11, however to provide support to young people to access education they have a heavily subsidised transport scheme. There is a lot of information in this and below is a link to detailed information on post 16 transport for those over 16 with an EHCP.

We strongly recommend that you read through the guidance in full but to summarise key points: <https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/post16transport>

- Anyone 16-18, including those with an EHCP are required to pay an annual contribution towards transport costs. These can be paid in full or on a termly basis. Costs change each year but 22/23 were £540 although these are set to increase in 23/24. For those 19 to 25 with an EHCP, transport is free of charge.
- Transport will be provided via the most cost effective suitable method. This is identified through an assessment of the young person's needs taking account of relevant professional supporting evidence. Types of transport may include public transport services such as a bus, or assisted transport that could include taxi or minibus possibly on their own or with other children, or with or without a PA or a mileage allowance.
- Young people will only be eligible for assisted transport if they are attending the closest provider who offers their chosen course and is able to meet the young person's needs. For example, a young person who lives in Camborne and wants to study a level 1 mechanics course would unlikely, except in very specific circumstances, be granted assisted transport to attend Truro College if the same level of study and ability to meet needs was available at Cornwall College which is much closer to the learners home address.
- Transport that is provided is for one journey to and from a single home address from the learning/training provider during standard academic terms and hours. Individual timetables such as half days or extra-curricular activities outside of the hours will not be able to be supported.
- Many providers have a means tested bursary available which can help cover transport costs as well as other course related expenses that may be required.

Note that applications for transport and bursaries need to be completed by the parent, guardian or carer. Whilst the new provider, school and CSW may offer assistance in filling in the relevant forms, CSW do not support transport applications/form filling, it is the responsibility of the parent, guardian or carer to submit these within the given time frame to ensure transport is in place prior to the young person starting their new provision.

## 6. Will my child/ward receive support when they leave school?

During the consultation process, support needs will be identified within the EHCP and then discussed further with the young person and parents/guardians or carers. Support may look different for each individual depending on individual needs. For example, some learners may require specialist support through services such as hearing support, access to equipment and or resources such as laptops, reading pens or dictaphones. Some learners may also have access to learning support assistants for all or part of their studies on a one to one or group basis. The level of support will be based on the needs stated within the EHCP.

Useful links:

Post-16 Options: <https://cornwallpost16.co.uk/>

Transport information: <https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/post16transport>

SEND code of practice: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/send-code-of-practice-0-to-25>

School leaving age: <https://www.gov.uk/know-when-you-can-leave-school>

CSW: [angie.nelson-shepherd@cswgroup.co.uk](mailto:angie.nelson-shepherd@cswgroup.co.uk)