



Going to 6th Form or College with an Education, Health and Social Care Plan (EHCP)

A child becomes a young person on the last Friday in June after they turn 16.

You can legally leave school at the end of the school year in which you turn 16 (normally the end of year 11).

However, all young people must be in some kind of education or training until the age of 18.

This can be combined with paid or voluntary work.

Staying at school (6th Form)

You might want to move into the sixth form of your current mainstream or special school or move to another school.

In 6th form you might be able to do a programme of study leading to academic or vocational qualifications, from entry level qualifications to GCSEs, BTECs and A levels.

Although you will be doing different courses in the 6th form, if you have a current Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) to support your needs, you may continue to need this and the EHCP must be reviewed before you move to your new school.

Mainstream further education (FE) colleges

Mainstream further education colleges (also called FE Colleges) offer a wide range of courses to suit all levels of learning.

For example:

- Academic courses (A Levels, GCSE's).
- Vocational courses (such as BTECS).
- Entry Level courses in Maths and English.
- Courses which combine study with on- the- job training or work experience.
- "Life skills" courses to help young people prepare for adult life, work and participating in the community.

You should receive information and advice about suitable courses in good time for you to make the right decision. As well as getting information from your current school's Career staff, also check the following for up to date post-16 information:

- The Bexley Local Offer: [Education Decisions - Post 16 \(including careers advice\) | Bexley Local Offer](#)
- The National Careers Service: [National Careers Service](#)

Transferring from Secondary School to 6th Form or College with an EHCP:

This is known as **Phase Transfer** and the Law states that when a young person moves from secondary school to their next stage (which is called post 16), a review of the Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) should take place **at least five months before that transfer takes place**.

This means the Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) must be reviewed and amended before **31 March** if the transfer is from secondary school to a post-16 institution (this is a 6th Form or Collage).

This review of the Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) is called an **Annual Review** and your opinions and wishes regarding what you would like to do next must be taken into consideration at this meeting.

Note: The discussions about what you want to do after leaving school should have started for you in Year 9 if you have an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) in place, so you have plenty of time to consider your options before you leave in Year 11.

This document will explain what should happen from Year 9 onwards if you have an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) in place: [EHC Exemplar yr 9 and beyond - Final Draft.pdf \(councilfordisabledchildren.org.uk\)](#)

The Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) Annual Review:

The purpose of an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) Annual Review is to ensure that the contents of the Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) are still relevant and are helping you to make progress towards your aspirations and the outcomes in your Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP).

The Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) must be reviewed at least once a year by the local authority. This is to ensure it stays up-to-date and continues to provide the support you need.

Bexley IASS have developed a guide for parents, carers and young people called preparing for the Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) Annual review: Click on the link to open: [Preparing for the Annual Review](#)

[Please click on this link if you would prefer to see an Easy Read on Preparing for the Annual Review.](#)

In Bexley, Education, Health and Care Plan's (EHCP's) are managed by SEN Case Officers as part of the [Bexley Statutory Assessment Service](#).

The linked page below contains the names, direct telephone numbers, email address and school allocations for SEN Case Officers, their Support Officers and the service management structure in case you need to contact them:

[SEN Statutory Assessment Case Officers | Bexley Local Offer](#)

Once you have chosen a suitable 6th form or college and have informed your statutory SEN EHCP Case Officer at the Local Authority which College you would like to go to, they will speak to the College.

Once the new 6th form or college is confirmed your current school should also work with the new college to ensure a smooth transition into the next stage of your study.

What support is available at college?

Mainstream further education colleges (also called FE Colleges) support students with special educational needs in a similar way to schools.

There should be a named person at College in overall charge of supporting young people with special educational needs. This person may be called a special educational needs coordinator (SENCO), and the college must make sure that students with SEN know who they can go to for help.

Many young people with SEN will also be disabled. Under the Equality Act 2010, mainstream FE colleges must do everything they reasonably can to remove all the barriers to learning for disabled students.

Support might include:

- Accessible information, like symbol-based materials.
- Mentoring.

- Assistive technology, specialist tuition or note-takers.
- One-to-one and small group learning support.
- Access to therapies.
- Independent living training.

Specialist further education (FE) colleges (with an EHCP)

A specialist further education college provides education for young people with SEN only. Some have residential facilities and provide what is commonly called a “waking day” or “24-hour” curriculum.

Some specialist colleges help their students to attend courses in mainstream colleges.

You would need an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) to go to a specialist college. You can ask the local authority to name a specialist college in your Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) the annual review.

The local authority may refuse your request and it may be necessary to show that there are no alternative education options available.

Other education and training options

Education does not have to be all classroom-based learning in a school or college. There are also training options, which give a young person the chance to experience a workplace and develop the skills they will need in a particular job while continuing to study.

Please click on this link to go back to the Bexley SEND IASS web page on [Apprenticeships, Traineeships and Supported Internships](#).

Who can I speak to if I have questions about my EHCP?

You can speak to us: Bexley SEND IASS

You can contact us by telephone, email or ask your parent carer to fill in our self-referral form on the website. The links are below:

Call us on:

[0203 045 5976](tel:02030455976)

Email us at:

bexleyiass@bexley.gov.uk

Or fill in a website [self referral form](#)