



Special Educational Needs (SEN) Support at 6th Form or College

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 school 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 had extra help to support your special educational needs, you may continue to need this.

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](#)

Once you have chosen a suitable college, your current school should 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.

Colleges should **not** refuse to admit a young person who has special educational needs (SEN) but does not have an Education, Health & Social care Plan (EHCP).

Students with SEN who do not need Education, Health & Social care Plan (EHCP) are given help through SEN support.

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.

Extra help you receive should be detailed in a SEN support plan.

The college should involve you in writing this document and planning what support you need and keep records of the additional support given and progress made.

This should be reviewed at least three times a year with you. Colleges should refer to specialist services for further advice and support, for example from education psychologists.

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.

For more information from Bexley IASS on SEN Support with some helpful videos, please click here: [SEN Support](#)

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.](#)

Your Finances

If you are concerned about how you will pay for books, clothing, and other equipment for your course or, transport and lunch on days you study or train.

Please click on this link to the Bexley Local Offer where you will find information on the [16-19 Bursary and Vulnerable Student Bursary](#)

Who can I speak to if I have questions about SEN Support in 6th Form or College?

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**](mailto:bexleyiass@bexley.gov.uk)

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