

WHAT SUPPORT CAN I EXPECT FROM MY CHILD'S SCHOOL?

Understanding the support available to you

Schools are a fantastic source of support and guidance to their pupils, offering a wide range of careers education, information, advice, and guidance.

This quick guide sets out some of the basics that you can expect to see from your school.

What do schools have to do legally in terms of careers guidance?

The Education Act 2022 states that schools must secure independent careers guidance for all pupils in state-funded secondary education from year 7, including those in academy schools and alternative provision academies, under the Gatsby Benchmarks.

Schools must also provide opportunities for a range of education and training providers to access all year 8 to 13 pupils to inform them about approved technical education qualifications and apprenticeships, through the Provider Access Legislation.

What are the Gatsby Benchmarks?

The Gatsby Benchmarks are 8 statutory requirements a school or college has to provide to ensure excellent careers provision for their students. They were developed on behalf of the Gatsby Foundation by Sir John Holman to provide a clear framework for organising the careers provision in a school or college.

8 GATSBY BENCHMARKS

The 8 Gatsby Benchmarks:

1. A stable careers programme
2. Learning from careers and labour market information
3. Addressing the needs of each student
4. Linking curriculum learning to careers
5. Encounters with employers and employees
6. Experiences of workplaces
7. Encounters with further and higher education
8. Personal guidance



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Top tips to help you know when and where to look

How can I find out what my child's school are doing?

On your school website, you should find the following information:

- A careers section.
- Their careers policy.
- A programme or calendar of events.
- The name of the Careers Leader and any other relevant staff.
- Signposting to a range of quality and relevant careers and labour market information aimed at students and parents.
- Links to any social media accounts you can follow, either recommended third parties or the school's career service themselves.

What should I expect if my child has additional needs?

Your child's school may put on additional activities for pupils, based on their level of need. For example, face-to-face advice and guidance should be arranged by a school when it is most appropriate for the young person to ensure successful next steps, particularly for students at risk of disengaging from education or training, or those with special educational needs.

What should I expect my child's school to offer?

Your school will most likely be offering a range of activities to support their pupils. This could involve ideas such as:

- Careers teaching
- Careers assemblies
- Careers advice and guidance appointments with a qualified careers adviser
- Support with options choices
- Careers fairs
- Mentoring
- Regular newsletters
- Employer visits and talks
- Work experience support
- Work shadowing support
- College and university visits
- Access to careers websites
- Telephone and helpline services
- Mock interviews
- Support with employability skills like CV writing

TOP TIP

If you are unsure of the support being offered by your child's school or college, you can reach out to their named Careers Leader and ask them to explain the careers programme to you.

