

How is your child prepared for life after school?

With the new Education, Health and Care Plans, students are invited to contribute to the plan. By law, their views are taken into account. The curriculum is very practical so that students understand the relevance of what they are learning. Many of the students do not naturally plan ahead so we need to include activities in the curriculum that helps them to think about the future and develop their planning skills. Each class has an Aspirations Board whereby students are encouraged to identify something that they would like to achieve; be it riding a bike, making a cup of tea, tying their shoe lace, sending an email, or joining a football team. They put their aspirations on the Board and with staff help, work towards achieving their aspirations. Their aspirations are regularly reviewed and new ones identified when achieved. This introduces the student to the idea that they can make choices and with planning and practise achieve their goals.

In Year 9 students are asked to make decisions about their future and identify what they would want to do when they are 16. Students have careers lessons as part of the Personal and Social Development programme, when they find out what different jobs involve. They also meet the Careers Adviser who helps them to research areas that they are interested in.

From Year 10 onwards all students have work experience. The level of support and the types of work they are introduced to depends upon the needs of the student. Some complete work experience in a class group while others go in a small group or as an individual to work in an area they think would interest them. Work experience also helps students with their choice of a course to follow at 16. Some students can identify an area of interest such as Child Care, Art and Design, IT, Sports and Leisure, Horticulture or Hospitality while others are more interested in developing their independence and work skills. Throughout the process the Careers Adviser is involved in guiding and helping students make decisions about their future.

Once in the Post 16 department students focus on what they want to do when they leave school. They all continue to have work experience to develop work related skills; they learn about how work relationships are different from school; they learn how to compile a CV, apply for jobs, visit a range of colleges and training providers and fill in applications for college or training. The process is linked to the review of their Education, Health and Care Plans where they make contributions to the plans for their future. The Inclusion Manager and the Careers Advisor provide information about the different colleges, apprenticeships, internships and training providers in the Birmingham area and explain entry requirements, the application process for places and funding and advice about Disability Allowances and support.