



Aylesford School
COURAGE CONFIDENCE CHARACTER



Advice about planning your next steps if you are in Year 12 and have an EHC Plan

When you move from one stage of school to another (like when you finish sixth form), it's called a phase transfer. This is just like when you moved from primary to secondary school. You and your family will need to decide which sixth form, college, or provider that you want to go to.

You'll fill in a form for Kent County Council (KCC) at the start of Year 13 to tell them your choice. KCC will contact your chosen provider and check that they can meet your needs. Then it can be included in your Education, Health, and Care Plan (EHCP).

By following these steps, you can make a well-informed decision about your post-16 education and ensure that the place you choose will support your growth and development.

1. **Start Early:** Begin thinking about your post-18/post-19 options as soon as you can, ideally in Year 12. This will give you time to research and explore the different choices available to you.
2. **Attend Open Days:** Again, do this in Year 12 if you can. There is a list on the Kent Choices website. <https://www.kentprospectus.co.uk/events/> Attending open days can help you get a feel for the place and ask questions about the support available. If you've missed the open day at a provider that you like, contact them anyway and ask if you can still visit.
3. **Consider Different Options:** Post-18 and post-19 options include:
 - **College** (for Level 1-5 vocational courses, or apprenticeships)
 - **Training Providers** (for apprenticeships or other work-based learning)
 - **Specialist Providers or Study Programme** (for tailored support usually at a smaller setting)
 - **Supported Employment** (job coaching and work experiences that are specially designed to help young people, especially those with SEND, find and keep a job or apprenticeship). Kent County Council offer this through The Education People.
 - **University** (to study a degree, perhaps with a foundation year)

Think about which one fits your interests, abilities, and career goals.

4. **Know Your Needs:** Look closely at your EHCP to understand the support you may need in the next phase of education. Make sure the college, university, or training provider can meet those needs. For example, do they offer extra help with learning, access to a mentor, or other support services?

5. **Talk to Your School and Support Team:** Discuss your options with your current school, teachers, and the SEN (Special Educational Needs) team. They can guide you through the process and help you understand which providers are most suited to your needs.
6. **Talk to Your Family:** Make sure your family is involved in the decision-making process. They can help you weigh your options and help you to choose the right path for your future.
7. **Make Your Views Known:** Your EHCP should include your views on where you want to go for post-18 education. Make sure to communicate your preferences clearly to your school and Kent County Council.
8. **Be Flexible:** Things may change as you go through the process, so be open to exploring different options. Sometimes a plan that seemed perfect at first may need to be adjusted.
9. **Remember Support is Key:** Ensure that whatever choice you make, the provider will offer the right kind of support to help you succeed. This could include extra learning support, therapy, or adjustments to help with exams or coursework.

Some things to remember:

This is just the next step in your education. You are entitled to support until you're 18, or (if you choose to stay in education) until you're 25. This means you can try different options over time. For example, you might start at a sixth form or a specialist provider at 16, and then move to a college, apprenticeship, or supported job when you're 18 or 19. In this video, Chris from CXK explains this idea:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DRkXgk6K8EY>

Some specialist providers are available for young people with an EHCP who are 19 or older so you don't need to stay at the same place until you're 25.

You can try supported employment or apprenticeships at any age.

If you want to go to university after you're 18, you can do that too, as long as you meet the entry requirements. Your EHCP will stop if you go to university, but there is other support available to you. More information can be [found by clicking here](#).

What if I can't find what I want in Kent? You may live close to the boundary of another county, or just not be able to find what you need or want in Kent. This means that you might consider expanding your search to look at providers that are called 'Out of Area' by Kent County Council, but are actually closer to your home than some of these options.

KCC may agree to support a placement in another county for a variety of reasons and it is worth talking to them about arranging this for you if you think it best meets your needs. Examples can include if a provider offers specialised support or it has courses that are a better fit for your future goals. KCC has to agree to this, so the earlier you start this conversation the better.

What providers are available in Kent?

Sixth form or college:

After sixth form, you can apply directly to college. It depends on the entry criteria. **Most of these places are listed on the Kent Choices website.**

Specialist providers (from the KCC Local Offer website) as of 24 Sept 2025 (that are in addition to local colleges):

16 to 25 options	19 to 25 options
Bemix, Canterbury, Swale and Medway	Folkestone Beacon Plus
Brogdale CIC, Sittingbourne	Grow 19, Maidstone
Catch 22 College, Maidstone	LINK19, Gravesend
Kite College, Sittingbourne	The Oaks Specialist College, Tonbridge
Liberty College, Ramsgate	
Reynolds Training Academy, Dartford	
Lighthouse on the Marsh, New Romney	
Sports Connect, Aylesford and Sandwich	
SupaJam, Canterbury and Swanley	
White Rocks Farm, Sevenoaks	
Woodpecker Court, Dover	
YMCA Horizons, Tonbridge	

More information about this process can be found on the Kent County Council SEND Hub.
<https://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/special-educational-needs-and-disabilities/support-for-young-people-with-special-educational-needs-and-disabilities/education-for-young-people-with-send> or you can ask specific questions by emailing sendatacoordination@kent.gov.uk