

Raising the Participation Age - Information for schools, academies and other education and training providers (pre-16)

What is RPA?

The Government has changed the law so that from start of the 2013/14 academic year, all young people are required to continue in education or training:

- Until the end of the academic year in which they turn 17.
- From summer 2015 this will be until their 18th birthday.

The information here will help you to understand what this means for you.

Raising the Participation Age is not the same as raising the school leaving age and young people are still be able to leave school after Year 11 if they want to take up another option. The options are:

- Full-time study in a school, college or with a training provider.
- Full-time work or volunteering combined with part-time education or training.
- An Apprenticeship (www.apprenticeships.org.uk).

Why have you made this change?

The vast majority of 16 and 17 year-olds already continue in some form of education or training, because it gives them the best chance to get the skills and qualifications that Universities and employers look for. However, the small group of young people not participating includes some of the most vulnerable. We want to give all young people the opportunity to develop the skills they need for adult life and to achieve their full potential.

What does it mean for schools?

Schools play a key role in preparing young people to participate in post-16 education or training, including through the provision of careers guidance. Since September 2012, schools have been legally required to secure access to independent, impartial careers guidance on the full range of post-16 options for years 9-11, and this will be extended to years 8-13 from September 2013. This advice will support young people to make the right decision about how they want to participate post-16. The National Careers Service also provides impartial advice which can be found at: <http://tinyurl.com/cj3ydy1> or by phone on 0800 100 900. The line is open from 8am to 10pm.

Local authorities are under new duties in relation to RPA. They will need to work with schools to support pupils who are at risk of not participating in education or training post-16, and to ensure that all 16- and 17-year-olds are offered a suitable place in education or training, including in schools, colleges or work-based training.

Schools will want to raise awareness and understanding of this change to the law amongst their pupils, particularly with those they consider at risk of leaving education.

The most recent Key Stage 4 (KS4) and Key Stage 5 (KS5) **Destination Measures** were published on 20 June 2013. The Measures show the percentage of students continuing their education in school, further education or sixth form college or higher education institution, and the percentage training through an Apprenticeship or work-based learning. For the first time, this year, the Measures also show the percentage of students who went into employment or training and those who were not in education, employment or training (NEET) and published the Key Stage 4 Education Destination Measures on the Performance Tables website. We also published breakdowns of the data based on the characteristics of students (gender, ethnicity, students claiming Free School Meals, and, for KS4 students, Special Educational Needs) for the first time on 23 July 2013.

More information is available at:

RPA - www.education.gov.uk/rpa

Key Stage 4 and Key Stage 5 Destination Measures - <http://tinyurl.com/co8qveq>

Supporting post-16 transition - <http://tinyurl.com/aj98sbq>

National Careers Service- <http://tinyurl.com/cj3ydyl>