

Pathways & Provision



Information Leaflet 2017/18



Pathways & Provision

As guided by the Government under a statutory duty, young people are required to stay in some form of education or training until the academic year in which they turn 18 years old. This means that upon leaving Secondary School all young people must have identified and secured a pathway that includes accredited learning. This leaflet will detail all of the current available pathways and provision offers open to young people to further their education upon leaving Secondary school.

This leaflet for the 2017/18 academic year has been developed as part of Rochdale Borough Council's continued support to teachers, governors, parents and carers to inform and raise awareness of the Pathways available Post 16 and where young people can choose to study.

Post 16 Pathways/Programmes

16-19 Study Programmes

16-19 Study programmes were introduced in September 2013 with the ethos that young people aged 16 to 19 should be given the opportunity to take a study programme which reflects their prior attainment, education and career goals. Study programmes include substantial academic or applied and technical qualifications; non-qualification activity including work experience; and the study of English and maths where the young person does not hold a GCSE graded A*-C, or new grading Level 4 - 9, in that subject by age 16.

The study programme should:

- provide progression to a level higher than that of a young person's prior attainment;
- include qualification(s) that stretch the young person and that are clearly linked to suitable progression opportunities in training, employment or higher levels of education
- require young people who do not already have GCSE A*-C in maths and English to work towards them (or other approved stepping stone qualifications)
- include work experience - this may relate to the young person's study programme, develop employability skills and/or create potential employment options

- include other activities unrelated to qualifications which develop the character, skills, attitudes and confidence that support progression
- young people who are not yet ready to study for a substantial qualification can undertake a programme focused on work experience and the development of employability skills.

Regardless of whether a young person is doing academic or vocational studies or a mix of both, they are expected to follow a study programme tailored to their prior attainment by age 16 and future education and career aspirations.

Further Education (FE) Colleges

FE colleges generally offer vocational (work-related) and specialist qualifications. They tend to provide courses for 16-18 year olds as well as adult learners and often have close links with the community. Each college is different, so you will need to check with your chosen college what courses are available. As a guide, some of the type of subjects on offer include:

- Catering and Hospitality; Travel and Tourism; Hairdressing and Beauty Therapy;
- Childcare and Social Care;
- Computing and Information Technology;
- Vehicle Mechanics; Construction; Painting and Decorating.

FE Colleges often offer courses such as English as an additional language (EAL) and English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) to help develop their English Language skills.

Popular courses include NVQs (National Vocational Qualifications), BTECs (Business and Technology Education Council), HNCs (Higher National Certificate), HNDs (Higher National Diplomas) and Foundation Degrees. FE Colleges offer courses at various levels, for example, if a young person didn't do well at school, then Entry Level Courses offer an opportunity to gain qualifications and enable them to go on to study further college courses at a higher level. Courses are also usually offered at Levels 1, 2 and 3 and the level will depend on what the young person has already achieved.

Traineeships

Traineeships is a programme for up to a maximum of 6 months to support young people to develop the skills they need to secure and succeed in employment, including Apprenticeships. Traineeships will give young people the opportunity to develop the skills and workplace experience that employers require. They offer young people the opportunity to undertake a work placement and work skills training, alongside support to improve their English and Maths. Depending on the young person's needs, a range of other support and flexible training may be offered to help them develop their skills and progress quickly onto an Apprenticeship or secure other employment.

Apprenticeships

An Apprenticeship is a job with training designed specifically for the job role. This leads to nationally recognised qualifications, so young people can earn while they learn. Apprenticeships are open to anyone aged 16 or over, living in England, and not in full-time education. Apprenticeships can take between one and four years to complete and cover a huge amount of job roles in a range of industries, from engineering to financial advice, veterinary nursing to accountancy. They are currently available at four levels:

- Intermediate: equivalent to five A* to C GCSE's;
- Advanced: equivalent to two A levels;
- Higher: typically incorporate vocational qualifications at levels 4 and 5 or a foundation degree and
- Degree Apprenticeships incorporate a Masters or Bachelor's degree through a University.

Apprenticeships allow young people to start and progress their careers, achieve qualifications, learn job-specific skills, get quality training, earn a salary and avoid student debt. For the employer, Apprenticeships deliver real business benefits, including reducing recruitment and training costs, increasing productivity, development of a skilled, motivated and qualified workforce, improved customer service results and providing financial return on investment.

A Levels

A levels are subject based qualifications that can lead to further study, training, work or University. A level's are linear which means exams are taken at the end of the course. An AS Level will not count towards the A-level grade and resitting will involve redoing all the exams.

Key features of A levels;

- They will be linear, ie the whole content will be examined at the end of the course.
- Exams will make greater use of 'synoptic' questions, and there will be more variety of question types (eg multiple choice).
- Coursework will be reduced
- Young people wishing to retake A levels will have to retake the entire theory exam in June (January retakes ceased in 2013), though it will be possible to carry forward internally assessed marks
- It will still be possible to complete an A-Level course in one year as long as all the assessments are completed at the end
- New A levels will be graded with the same A* to E pass marks as currently used
- Changes are being introduced in three phases. A transition period from September 2015, when teaching the first new specification is due to start, to June 2018 when the very last of the old style A-level exams will be sat
- During the transition period young people's courses will include at least one subject aiming at a new 'linear' exam (in which AS results won't count towards A level grade), and at least one which is still being examined in the current 'modular' style (with AS contributing 50% to A level).

Key features of AS levels

They too will be linear but they will no longer count towards the A-level results. The standard of the new AS will be broadly as now, aimed at young people half-way through an A-level course.

Where young people can study:

Rochdale Secondary Schools

Secondary Schools across Rochdale Borough are improving educational outcomes for young people (aged 11+) through modern, well equipped schools. Every Secondary School has been remodelled to transform them into new and exciting learning spaces fit for the 21st century. Our Schools across the Borough are Brownhill Learning Community, Cardinal Langley RC High School & Sixth Form, Falinge Park High School, Hollingworth Academy, Holy Family RC & CE College, Kingsway Park High School, Matthew Moss High School, Middleton Technology School, Oulder Hill Community School & Language College, Redwood Secondary School, Siddal Moor Sports College, St. Anne's Academy, St. Cuthbert's Business & Enterprise College and Wardle Academy.

Sixth Form Colleges

Sixth-form colleges are not part of the schools sector but are institutions for young people and adults wishing to undertake A Levels or Vocational programmes. Rochdale Sixth Form College is our local provider, offering A Levels and is 'Outstanding' in every area following their Ofsted Inspection in 2013.

For the past 4 years, it has been Number 1 in the Country for A Level progress as published in the Department for Education's League Tables.

Further Education (FE) Colleges

Further education (FE) is a term mainly used in connection with education in the United Kingdom and Ireland. It is post compulsory education (16+). Hopwood Hall College is our local FE College, providing a wide range of vocational courses with excellent facilities on both Rochdale and Middleton campuses. The College was rated 'Good' by Ofsted following an inspection visit in November 2016.

University Technical College's (UTC)

University technical colleges (UTCs) are academies for 14 to 19 year olds. They provide education that meets the needs of employers. They offer technical courses and work-related learning, combined with academic studies.

All UTCs:

- are sponsored by a local university and employers
- specialise in 2 curriculum areas (e.g. engineering and science).
- teach core GCSEs alongside technical qualifications
- focus on sectors that require highly-specialised equipment, e.g. Engineering, manufacturing and construction
- develop young people's business, ICT and design skills preparing young people for a range of careers and continuing education at 19
- have 500 to 800 students.

Academies

Academies are publicly-funded independent schools. An Academy is different to a School in the following areas:

Freedoms

Academies benefit from greater freedoms which include:

- freedom from local authority control;
- the ability to set their own pay and conditions for staff;
- freedoms around the delivery of the curriculum; and
- the ability to change the lengths of terms and school days.

Sponsors

Academies usually have a sponsor. Sponsors come from a wide range of backgrounds including successful schools, businesses, universities, charities and faith bodies. Sponsors are held accountable for improving performance, achievement and aspirations.

Funding

Academies receive the same level of pupil funding as they would receive from the local authority as a maintained school. They also receive additional funding to cover costs which are not provided by the local authority. Academies have greater freedom over how they use their budgets to best benefit their students. Academies receive their funding directly from the Education Funding Agency (EFA) rather than from local authorities.

Governance

The governance in an Academy is the same as in maintained schools but they have greater autonomy. Academies are also required to have at least two parent governors.

Free Schools

Free schools are schools set up in response to what local people say they want and need educationally for children in their community.

Studio Schools

Studio schools offer academic and vocational qualifications, but teach them in a practical and project-based way. Study is combined with work placements at local and national employers who are involved in the school.

Career College

A flexible pathway for 14 to 19 year olds. Young people study for high quality academic and vocational qualifications, combining core curriculum subjects with a vocational specialism and hands-on projects. Progression opportunities include apprenticeships and higher education. Career Colleges are being established through existing channels as part of an FE college and will specialise in subjects and working in partnership with employers directly linked to industry sectors with good job prospects, including hospitality, catering and tourism; finance and insurance; health and care; cultural and creative arts; sports and events management; and construction. They will give young people a head start by developing their skills, knowledge and experience, required by employers. knowledge and experience, required by employers.

For further information, please contact:

Jo Manfred, Raising Participation team, Rochdale Borough Council, Jo.manfred@rochdale.gov.uk / 01706 925155