

Raising the participation age (RPA) for young people post 16 years in Swindon

Information for parents, carers and young people





1. What does this mean for young people?

All young people in England are now required to continue in education or training beyond the age of 16. Young people have a choice about how they continue in education or training post-16, which could be through:

- full-time study in a school, college or with a training provider;
- full-time work or volunteering (20 hours or more) combined with regulated part-time education or training (about one day per week);
- an apprenticeship (www.apprenticeships.org.uk) or traineeship.

2. Why is this important?

The legal requirement to participate will be on your son or daughter. This is because we know that, at 16, young people are starting to make – and take responsibility for – the decisions that affect their future.

Young people should be given the opportunity to develop skills and qualifications that will open doors to future employment, and help them make the most of their potential.

Evidence shows that achieving qualifications at this age can help to boost a young person's prospects for life, raise their confidence, and promote self esteem.



3. What can I do as a parent?

We know that you will be providing support and guidance to your child as they make these important decisions about their future, but there are also other sources of help

Local Offer

<https://localoffer.swindon.gov.uk/home/>

https://www.swindon.gov.uk/info/20032/schools_and_education/709/your_options_at_16

What parents can do

You can support young people to update Swindon Borough Council of their education, employment, or training status by using this website address:

<https://www.swindon.gov.uk/xfp/form/759>

Swindon Borough Council

Swindon Borough Council can offer information, support and guidance to young people to help them find suitable education and training options available to them through the Youth Engagement Service:

<https://localoffer.swindon.gov.uk/directory/providerdetails/217697>

YEW Facebook:

www.facebook.com/SwindonYouthEngagement

4. What does this mean for Local Authorities?

Under the Education and Skills Act 2008 legislation, local authorities are required to:

‘promote the effective participation in education or training of all 16 and 17 year olds resident in their area; and make arrangements (an effective tracking system) to identify young people resident in their area who are not participating.’

This means that Swindon Borough Council will try to make contact with all young people where they do not know if they are in education, employment or training. Swindon Borough Council will do this by contacting young people and/or their parents by phone, post, email, visiting their home, or via social media in order to find out what their situation is.

5. What can we do to help?

If you or your child receive a call, a visit, or a message via social media please understand that Swindon Borough Council is carrying out its statutory duty and will request certain information to enable us to report to the Government on how many 16 and 17 year olds are not in education or training in Swindon.

More importantly, this information will help local education and training providers working with the Local Authority, provide suitable and sufficient places for all young people to be able to participate in education or training to help them develop their skills and knowledge for their future.

This website can tell you more about the statutory duty of the Local Authority:

www.gov.uk/government/publications/participation-of-young-people-education-employment-and-training



Family Intervention Support Service (FISS)

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