

## Post School Options In Wales

### College

Colleges offer a wide range and level of academic and vocational courses. Colleges can provide additional support to students with additional learning needs to help them get the most out of their course. This support is based on a person's needs but could include personal helpers, help with basic skills such as Maths and English, exam support, equipment, note takers, communicators or providing work in Braille or large print.

Colleges also offer courses that have been designed for students who need support to develop their skills and career ideas. These courses vary but students are often taught in small classes and the programmes of study are tailored to meet a young person's abilities. Broadly these courses aim to prepare young people for adult life by offering vocational tasters, the chance to get qualifications, improve skills in Maths and English/Welsh and communication. Some students start with this type of course and then move onto a mainstream course.

There are full time and part time courses available at college. Full time college courses are usually 3-4 days a week.

If local colleges are not able to meet your child's additional learning needs, they could consider specialist colleges provision. There are specialist colleges offering day and residential placements across Wales and England.

The process for making decisions about funding specialist college placements is changing. Under the new Additional Learning Needs and Educational Tribunal Act (ALNET) the decision regarding whether or not a specialist college placement is needed for a young person will sit with the local authority. The Act is being implemented over a number of years and affects this funding application process in the following way:

#### **Table showing ALNET implementation by academic and school leaver years:**

Academic year	Year 11 leaver	Year 12 leaver	Year 13 leaver	Year 14 leaver
2022-23	Decision made by the local authority	Decision made by Welsh Government	Decision made by Welsh Government	Decision made by Welsh Government
2023-24	Decision made by the local authority	Decision made by the local authority	Decision made by Welsh Government	Decision made by Welsh Government
2024-25	Decision made by the local authority	Decision made by the local authority	Decision made by the local authority	Decision made by Welsh Government
2025-26	Decision made by the local authority	Decision made by the local authority	Decision made by the local authority	Decision made by the local authority



Where the decision is made by Welsh Government then the Careers Adviser will make the application for funding. Information on this process can be found on the Welsh Government website:

[www.gov.wales/securing-post-16-education-young-people-learning-difficulties-guidance-careers-wales](http://www.gov.wales/securing-post-16-education-young-people-learning-difficulties-guidance-careers-wales)

Where the decision is made by the local authority, they will be able to provide the process that they are following to make a decision. Welsh Government guidance for local authorities can be found on [www.gov.wales/additional-learning-needs-and-education-tribunal-wales-act-2018-guidance-local-authorities-interim](http://www.gov.wales/additional-learning-needs-and-education-tribunal-wales-act-2018-guidance-local-authorities-interim)

## Jobs Growth Wales+/Training

If a young person is interested in working but either isn't yet ready to enter employment or needs to gain work experience, they could join the [Jobs Growth Wales+](#) programme. This offers young people the chance to gain work-based skills and qualifications in a training centre or with a local employer. They may also gain valuable work experience and maybe even a paid job in some cases.

There are three different levels of training open to young people on Jobs Growth Wales+:

[Engagement](#) - this programme gives young people the opportunity to develop their skills, work on their Maths and English and build their confidence and communication. Whilst on engagement they are also able to gain vocational tasters and may get experience of the work place with an employer

[Advancement](#) - if a young person is ready for a work placement and knows what type of work they would like to do they could start to work towards a National Vocational Qualification (NVQ) at Level 1

[Employment](#) - if a young person is ready for work, they can get help to apply for a paid job placement on Jobs Growth Wales+

Young people who have additional learning needs can access support to enable them to complete their training. To **apply** for Jobs Growth Wales + you will need to arrange an appointment with [Careers Wales](#), where you can detail any additional learning needs and support requirements to the Careers Advisor who will ensure a comprehensive and thorough referral and transition.

## Work

If young people are interested in working as soon as they leave school, there are several ways that they could do this.

### **Supported employment:**

There are several supported employment agencies across Wales. They help young people with additional learning needs to find and maintain employment. They may offer support with applications, supporting a young person to learn how to travel to work and some will also offer a job coach. Job Coaches work alongside a young person helping them to familiarise themselves with the tasks. Supported employment agencies in Wales are:

<https://elitesea.co.uk/> - South, Mid and West Wales

[www.agoriad.org.uk](http://www.agoriad.org.uk) - North Wales

[www.engagetochange.org.uk/parents-and-carers](http://www.engagetochange.org.uk/parents-and-carers)

### **Open employment:**

Young people could apply for vacancies advertised online, in the press or through organisations such as Job Centre Plus or Careers Wales. Careers Wales staff can provide support to young people who are



looking for work. This may include where to look for vacancies, how to complete application forms or CVs and advice and information on interview skills.

[www.gov.uk/access-to-work](http://www.gov.uk/access-to-work) may be able to support young people to get further financial support or equipment for employment.

## Apprenticeships

Apprenticeships are real jobs where you learn, gain experience and get paid. An apprenticeship should give you the skills, knowledge and experience for a chosen career. Apprenticeship vacancies specify entry requirements and any qualities the employer is looking for. You can search for live vacancies and also set up alerts for upcoming apprenticeships opportunities via:

[Apprenticeship Search \(gov.wales\)](#)

[Find an Apprenticeship.gov.uk](#)

[Get My First Job](#)

[Student Apprenticeships](#)

[Amazing Apprenticeships](#)

The following resource shares some useful information on apprenticeships for people with a learning disability:

[www.mencap.org.uk/sites/default/files/2020-02/20120.009%20LDWW2019\\_Factsheet%207.pdf](http://www.mencap.org.uk/sites/default/files/2020-02/20120.009%20LDWW2019_Factsheet%207.pdf)

Find out more about the Welsh Government's Action Plan for Inclusive Apprenticeships via:

[www.gov.wales/disability-action-plan-apprenticeships](http://www.gov.wales/disability-action-plan-apprenticeships)

## Voluntary work

If a young person wants to work but isn't yet ready for paid employment, they could enter voluntary work. This can help to develop skills and confidence as well as providing useful work experience. Volunteers get involved in all sorts of projects and activities. The amount of time a person spends volunteering can range from a one-off involvement to a regular commitment of time each week.

You can find out more about volunteering on <https://volunteering-wales.net/> and <https://volunteeringmatters.org.uk/>

## Day Services Provision

For some young people day services may be the most appropriate option. Day services are provided by the local authority social services department or voluntary organisations. There are a number of options, depending on what is available in the local area but typically these may include:

- Daily living skills
- Leisure and recreational activities
- Vocational training
- Community and voluntary projects
- College links
- Work experience



Social services assess a young person's needs and discuss the options available. If you are interested in exploring this option, you would need to discuss this with your social worker or contact your local social services department.

### Support for young people with sensory impairments

[Royal National Institute for Deaf People](#) (RNID) provides support for people who are deaf or have a hearing loss and tinnitus. They provide advice, care and support services, communication services and training.

[The National Deaf Children's society](#) gives expert support on childhood deafness, raises awareness and campaigns for deaf children's rights so they have the same opportunities as everyone else.

[The Royal National Institute of Blind People](#) (RNIB) Cymru provides services and support to blind and partially sighted people across Wales, as well as campaigning for service improvements to prevent avoidable sight loss.

### Support for people on the Autistic Spectrum/with specific learning difficulties

[National Autistic Society Cymru](#) is a charity that works across Wales providing information, support and services, and campaigning for a better world for people with autism (including Asperger syndrome), their families and carers.

[ASD info Wales](#) raises awareness of Autism through its policy development, providing information, support and advice services and training professionals.

[British Dyslexia Association](#) offers advice and support to individuals, third sector organisations, public bodies and private businesses.

### Support for young people with ALN who are looking for work

[Agoriad Cyf](#) are a specialist recruitment and training provider. They help people to achieve greater independence and to realise their potential within the workplace.

[Elite Supported Employment](#) is a charity working with people with disabilities or those at a disadvantage across South and South West Wales. Elite supports people with vocational opportunities, training and employment through independence.

[The Engage to Change](#) project is currently running across the whole of Wales to support young people aged 16-25 with a learning disability and/or autism into paid work placements lasting 6-12 months.

[Remploy](#) a provider of disability employment services in Wales, helps and support disabled people into work, whilst working with employers to ensure that they can recruit, retain and sustain individuals.

[Shaw Trust](#) supports disabled and disadvantaged people into employment through either Work Choice or the Work Programme. Support includes help in preparing for work, help with employment and managing a disability.

[Access to Work](#) is a publicly funded employment support programme that aims to help disabled people start or stay in work. It can provide practical and financial support for people who have a disability or long term physical or mental health conditions.



## Support for people with disabilities

[SNAP Cymru](#) works with families and professionals to ensure that young people's needs are identified and provision made available to help them reach their potential.

[Scope Cymru](#) offers free and confidential information, advice and support for disabled people, their families and professionals in Wales on a variety of issues. For disability information call 0808 800 3333.

[Contact a Family Cymru](#) is a charity that works across Wales to support families of children with disabilities or additional needs, whatever their condition or disability. Freephone helpline: 0808 808 3555.

[Learning Disability Wales](#) is a national charity representing the learning disability sector in Wales. It works with people with a learning disability, government and the voluntary sector to create a better Wales for people with a learning disability.

[Children in Wales](#) provides services for those working with children, young people and families in Wales. They aim to improve the lives of them all, but especially those affected by family instability, poverty and deprivation or have special needs/disabilities.

## Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal Act Wales 2018 (ALNET)

The Act was introduced to:

- Make provision for a new statutory framework for supporting children and young people with additional learning needs (ALN)
- Create an integrated, collaborative process of assessment, planning and monitoring which facilitates early, timely and effective interventions
- Create a fair and transparent system for providing information and advice, and for resolving concerns and appeals

More information on the [Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal \(Wales\) Act](#) can also be found on:

[www.gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2024-04/aln-factsheet-how-will-the-act-affect-maintained-schools-including-maintained-nurseries.pdf](http://www.gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2024-04/aln-factsheet-how-will-the-act-affect-maintained-schools-including-maintained-nurseries.pdf)

## Other Useful Information

Funding through Education Maintenance Allowance: [www.studentfinancewales.co.uk/further-education-funding/education-maintenance-allowance](http://www.studentfinancewales.co.uk/further-education-funding/education-maintenance-allowance)

Access to work Scheme: [www.gov.uk/access-to-work](http://www.gov.uk/access-to-work)

Health Care Travel support scheme through the NHS: [www.nhs.uk/nhs-services/help-with-health-costs/healthcare-travel-costs-scheme-htcs](http://www.nhs.uk/nhs-services/help-with-health-costs/healthcare-travel-costs-scheme-htcs)

Supported employment and job coaching for people with disabilities: [www.maximusuk.co.uk/all-insights](http://www.maximusuk.co.uk/all-insights)

Disability Friendly Sport Newport Wales: [www.studentfinancewales.co.uk/further-education-funding/education-maintenance-allowance](http://www.studentfinancewales.co.uk/further-education-funding/education-maintenance-allowance)