

Moving on from Special School (Post 16)

- suitable for parents and professionals



Please note: 'YP' = 'young person'

Education options for YP attending a special school:

- The SEND Officer at the Special Educational Needs Assessment Team or teachers at your school or college may be able to advise you about next steps. The annual review meeting of your Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) is your formal opportunity to say what you'd like to do next.
- They may have a course that allows your young person (YP) to stay where they are.
- If not, you could look for a course at a Further Education college which provides foundation courses for YP with Special Needs. These are smaller groups with more support and are based on life skills and include English and maths.
- If these are not suitable you could look for a specialist college which meets your YP's needs. You could look on the [Natspec website](https://natspec.org.uk) (Link: <https://natspec.org.uk>).
- Some young people with an EHCP choose to do a Supported Internship which includes work placements as well as education. You can read more about this in our 'Supported Internships' factsheet on our [website resources page](https://westsussexsendias.org/leaflets-and-factsheets) (Link: <https://westsussexsendias.org/leaflets-and-factsheets>).
- It is important to make sure the EHCP is up to date as a new placement will be using the EHCP to decide if they can meet needs and offer your YP a place. Look over it to see what is out of date and what is missing.

What if the YP doesn't want to stay in education?

- The EHCP will cease once the YP is no longer in education.
- The disability advisor at your local Job Centre Plus can help YP find suitable work.
- Supported work can help the YP get work experience in a supportive environment and is designed for YP with SEND. In West Sussex, this is provided by the [Aldingbourne Trust](http://www.supportedemploymentwestsussex.org/workaid) (Link: www.supportedemploymentwestsussex.org/workaid).
- Some local charities also provide work opportunities.
- You can apply to [Access to Work](https://www.gov.uk/access-to-work/apply) (Link: <https://www.gov.uk/access-to-work/apply>) for help getting and staying in work.
- If the YP does not want to stay in education, and is not ready for work, then you can consider day centres which are run by the LA or charities. These are funded by social care so the YP will need to have a social worker or have [a social care assessment](https://tinyurl.com/4ffbese2) (Link: <https://tinyurl.com/4ffbese2>), unless you are paying yourself.
- After age 18 the YP will need to pay a contribution towards the funding towards any social care provision, so make sure you ask about this.



What if the EHCP is ceased?

- If the YP wants to stay in education but SENAT stop ('cease') your EHCP by writing to you to inform you of this, you will have the right (and 2 months) to appeal this decision if you wish to. The EHC Plan has not ceased whilst you go through the appeal process.
- If it is ceased because the YP starts supported work or a job, the EHCP could be reactivated if they later go back to education, providing they are still under 25 years old.

Will the EHC Plan transport arrangement continue?

- ❖ Travel assistance provided by West Sussex County Council will **not** automatically continue.
- ❖ You must apply for post-16 transport assistance **every year**.
- ❖ Transport applications open at the beginning of May each year and the deadline for applying is usually by the end of June.
- ❖ If you need advice about post-19 transport, you can contact the Post-19 Travel Team by email at: Post19Travel@westsussex.gov.uk or phone on 0330 2224166.
- ❖ The Post-19 Travel team can also help in planning for independent travel to college.



Further information:

- ❖ The [National Careers Service](https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/contact-us) (Link: <https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/contact-us>). The website provides lots of information and advice to help you find the right job or training course.
- ❖ If you are not in education, employment or training this is known as NEET. [West Sussex Careers Service](https://tinyurl.com/yu2nw55k) (Link: <https://tinyurl.com/yu2nw55k>) can advise young people who are NEET. There may be a waiting list to speak to them, but you can self-refer for their service.

Any Questions?

If so, email us at SENDIAS (cyp.sendias@westsussex.gov.uk) or call our contact line (0330 222 8500) and we will advise you if we can. If we don't know the answer, we will signpost you to another service who can advise you.



Service Statement

The role of the SENDIAS service is to ensure all parents, children and young people have access to impartial information, advice and support so they can make informed decisions related to their situation. Any information that is shared with the service is in confidence unless permission has been obtained to share this with any individuals, services and agencies that may be able to help in the circumstances. For more detail, view our [policies and privacy notice](#) on our website.

How to contact us: Tel: 0330 222 8555 / Email: send.ias@westsussex.gov.uk or cyp.sendias@westsussex.gov.uk (up to age 25) / Website: www.westsussexsendias.org

To view factsheet online and access all links: <https://tinyurl.com/btwbxzep>

or scan QR code:

