

Staying longer in education & training

Is your child in Year 10 or 11? They will need to stay in learning.

The law has changed

All young people due to leave school in or after June 2014 must continue in training or learning until their 18th birthday. You might hear this called 'raising the participation age' or 'RPA'.

This will make sure your child gets all the free education they are entitled to and that they do not miss out on opportunities. This will also support them to develop the knowledge and practical skills employers are looking for, helping them to succeed in both work and life.

Learning does not mean school

Staying in school until 18 is the most popular choice in Oxfordshire. But many other young people go to local colleges, join work-based programmes or apprenticeships, or do other forms of work with training. There are other options, too, including continuing with home-schooling, learning in the community and more. Everyone should be able to find an option that suits them: guaranteed.

What counts as being in learning?

- Any full time education
- Any full-time accredited training
- Volunteering with accredited part time study
- Apprenticeships and Traineeships
- Work with accredited part time study

Part time study should be substantial (280 hours per year minimum).

Please note that all young people who do not get grade C or higher in their Maths and English GCSEs must continue to work towards these qualifications as part of their post 16 study programmes.



What if my child isn't able to learn?

We understand that some young people may need a temporary break from learning, for example if they are a new parent or have a serious illness. There is extra support for those young people who:

- Have few or no qualifications at GCSE level
- Have issues or problems which are getting in the way of their learning
- Are not participating for other reasons

You can find out more including how to access extra help and support at www.oxme.info/rpa

What do I do next?

Support your child and work out together what he or she will be doing next year. You can get extra support around choices from advisers at your school, careers events, www.oxme.info/rpa or from the young person's career helpline on 0800 100 900.

- If they wish to start work, encourage them to take up an apprenticeship or job with accredited training
- Register their details and what they will be doing next year at www.oxme.info/register

What will happen if my child drops out of learning?

We contact those young people who are not in education, employment or training on a regular basis to make sure they are getting the support they need. There are no fines or punishments. We simply want to be sure that your child is getting the free education and training they are entitled to.

www.oxme.info/rpa



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