

# The importance of keeping options open

## Guidance for Parents



### Consider all options

Your child has a number of different options when considering what they want to do when they leave school or college. It is important to take time to consider all options, even if they think they know what they want to do, so that they can make an informed decision about their future.

### When can my child leave school?

All young people in England are required by law to continue in education or training until their 18th birthday. They may choose one of the following:

- Study full-time at school, college or with a training provider.
- Undertake full-time employment or volunteering combined with part-time study or training
- Secure an apprenticeship

### Can my child apply for full-time study and an apprenticeship at the same time?

Depending on the age of your child, they are permitted to apply for different options e.g. school sixth form, college, university or an apprenticeship and then receive offers from all of these. This encourages them to research the opportunities available and to create choices. Then, when the time is right to make their selection, they will hopefully have a few different routes available to them.

### Which employers offer apprenticeships?

Thousands of employers offer apprenticeships, from huge corporations to small businesses. All apprenticeships offer bespoke training and study programmes, making it a highly personal experience, regardless of whether your child is the only apprentice in the business or one of a large group.

### Where can I see the vacancies available?

The Government provide a website called **Find an apprenticeship** [www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship](https://www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship)

This site lists many current apprenticeship vacancies and applicants can search and apply. You can set up an account to manage alerts so that you receive a text message or email when a job is added that you might be interested in.

### Can my child apply for more than one apprenticeship at a time?

It is a really good idea to submit a number of applications to different employers so that they have a greater chance of securing an apprenticeship. Employers will advertise at different times throughout the year so it is important that your child understands that finding an apprenticeship can be a slightly more complicated process than applying to a full-time study course. They will need to go through a recruitment process and for some employers, this can take a number of months.

### What if my child changes their mind?

Your child is allowed to change their mind. For example, if they decide to study full-time at a school sixth form but then feel it might not be right, they are permitted to apply for apprenticeships. Similarly, if your child secured an apprenticeship but decided that it wasn't right for them, it will be just like any other job and your child would be expected to work their notice period. They would then be able to go on to study or seek employment elsewhere and would be supported by their training provider.

### Where can I find out more?

The **National Careers Service** offers advice about careers and skills in England.

Please visit: <https://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk/contact-us/home>