



## Raising of the participation age for education and training (RPA)

The government has raised the participation age in England. A change in the law means that all young people are now required to continue in education or training until the end of the academic year in which they turn 17.

In August 2015 the participation age will rise again. From the 2015/16 academic year onwards, young people will be required to participate in education or training until their 18th birthday.

If a young person **left year 11 in summer 2013** they will need to continue in education or training until at least the end of the academic year in which they turn 17 i.e. year 12. A young person **starting year 11 in September 2013** will need to continue until at least their 18th birthday.

This doesn't have to mean staying in school. Young people can opt to study or train in any of the following ways:

- by studying full-time in a school, college or with a training provider (many young people also take a part time job alongside)
- by working or volunteering full-time, combined with part-time education or training
- by taking up an apprenticeship or traineeship

### Where can young people get more information?

Although, **schools** are responsible for securing independent careers guidance for their pupils in years 8-13 **local authorities** are responsible for making sure all young people have a suitable offer of a place in education or training.

Young people can contact their local authority directly for more information. Contact details for local authorities can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/find-your-local-council>.

Young people can also contact trained advisers for impartial advice at the **National Careers Service** on 0800 100 900 (open from 8.00am to 10pm, seven days a week) – and they can use the web-chat service by accessing the website at

<https://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk>.

Further information is also available from:

- Department for Education website: [www.education.gov.uk/rpa](http://www.education.gov.uk/rpa)
- Apprenticeships and traineeships website: [www.apprenticeships.org.uk](http://www.apprenticeships.org.uk)