



A code of practice for school and college staff, and Connexions and careers advisers providing careers education, information, advice and guidance for young people

Introduction

Careers education and guidance prepares young people for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult and working life. It equips them with the knowledge, skills and attitudes for managing their lifelong progress in learning and work. Schools and colleges work together with Connexions and careers services to provide the information, personal guidance and support that all young people need to enjoy learning and achieve economic well-being.

Principles

Staff providing careers education, information advice and guidance have a responsibility to act within an ethical framework that promotes equality of opportunity and puts learners' needs first. They will work in partnership with parents and carers, other support agencies and providers of opportunities in education, training and work to plan programmes which meet relevant statutory and legal requirements.

Practice

Staff will provide appropriate opportunities for young people to develop the knowledge, understanding and skills to enable them to:

- understand themselves and the influences on them: self-development
- investigate opportunities in learning and work: career exploration
- investigate opportunities in learning and work: career management

To promote lifelong career development for young people, teachers and other professionals providing careers education, information, advice and guidance will ensure that:

when working with young people

- their personal aspirations are treated with respect; without prejudice or discrimination;
- they have an entitlement and access to careers education, information, advice and guidance, regardless of race, gender, religion, ability, disability, social background or sexual orientation;
- they understand the full range of opportunities open to them and are helped to develop skills for career management which foster their independence and self-development;
- they have equal access to accurate, up-to-date and impartial information;
- their health and safety takes precedence in all planned career learning activities;
- respect for diversity is upheld, taking into account their beliefs and values and those of their families and communities.

when working with partners and networks

- they work collaboratively in the interests of young people, both in their own organisation and the wider community
- they involve parents and carers in the guidance process by informing them about careers related issues
- they develop agreements with all partners working with young people to act in accordance with the code of practice of their organisation, national and local quality standards for careers education, information, advice and guidance, and with this code of practice.

to support this practice

- they gain an accredited qualification in careers work and commit themselves to continuing professional development in order to improve their confidence and competence in providing careers education, information, advice and guidance to young people
- they work to meet appropriate national and local quality standards in careers education, information advice and guidance.