



Career Colleges Standards and Specifications

Purpose

Career Colleges have been established to offer a rigorous, alternative educational route at age 14, 15 or 16 for students who wish to pursue a more technical or vocational pathway, with direct links to employers and employment opportunities.

Vision

To equip young people with essential and relevant skills in a specified industry – with every single student progressing into employment, an Apprenticeship, further or higher education.



Each Career College will provide young people with:

- A world-class rounded education with specialist programmes of vocational study
- A curriculum developed in partnership with local employers and industry experts
- Exposure to career opportunities within the industry from the College's employer sponsors and partners
- An enquiry-based curriculum model that combines academic disciplines with technical studies, to ensure that every student is fully prepared to move on to the career of their choice
- A personalised and planned progression route that ensures every student reaches their full potential
- State-of-the-art facilities to support vocational and technical learning with the latest technology
- A business-like environment and extended hours, to prepare students for future employment and lifelong learning, appropriate to the industry/sector served
- A range of extracurricular enrichment activities to develop the wider personal skills and attributes that are so highly valued by employers.

Our values

We have identified the core values that provide a strong foundation for our approach to teaching and learning and ensure that our vision is realised:

Outstanding Education for all

Career Colleges aim to be outstanding providers of 14–19 education for young people, motivating and inspiring them to achieve their full potential.

Outstanding Teaching

High quality teaching will be evident across the whole curriculum and continual professional development, supported by the Career Colleges Trust, will ensure teachers remain at the top of their field. Teachers will combine a flair for delivery and lesson design with a deep understanding of the basic rules and principles of their subjects. When combined with a stimulating learning environment that includes vocational, academic and enrichment activities, it will enable all learners to achieve and reach their potential.

Excellence in everything we do

A Career College will recognise and nurture the talent of all within its community. Integral to excellence will be the development of moral values, good conduct, respect and consideration for others. All will strive to provide an excellent learning environment, innovative teaching methods and an inspiring curriculum.

Effective partnerships

We recognise that our learners, the employers, parents, carers and the community all have a valuable contribution to make to the success of the Career College. We will create an environment where individuals share our vision and work to meet high expectations and develop effective relationships, giving our students a firm foundation for lifelong learning and to be good citizens.

Innovative timetable and environment

We will create environments which prepare our students for work. We will operate business hours, use industry standard facilities / equipment and expect students to meet high standards of professional behaviour and personal appearance. This will enable young people to experience a working environment and understand the standards of professionalism required in the workplace.

Strategic objectives

Our strategic objectives demonstrate our commitment to excellence and to making a difference:

- To ensure all learners complete programmes and achieve outstanding results
- To ensure 100% progression for all learners onto their chosen destination whether that be further or higher education, higher apprenticeship training or employment
- To provide excellent teaching and assessment
- To provide programmes which meet the needs of individuals, employers and the wider community
- To provide excellent core and ancillary services to support our learning provision
- To provide inspiring leadership and management at all levels, with role models supporting the learning experience from the industry/sector served by the Career College.

The College is expected to ensure that:

- The Career Colleges Trust's vision, values and objectives are adhered to and achieved
- Learners are given the opportunity to study full Study Programmes, as directed by BIS and the SFA funding guidelines. This includes stipulations on work experience and focused individual learning and skills development, rather than simply qualification attainment
- All learners achieve the national required standards in maths and English, and have the opportunity to cover the broader National Curriculum, where applicable
- Every effort is made to maximise the achievement of learners, based on rigorous initial and diagnostic assessment to ascertain individual learners' needs, progress and potential
- Learner attainment is measured by way of attainment of progression to work and/or further study, as well as qualification success and distance travelled (to ensure learners are stretched and achieve their potential). This must be in accordance with BIS and SFA guidelines and FE funding requirements. For 14 to 16 year olds, learner attainment should be judged as Good (by OFSTED) in relation to national averages and local/regional school standards
- An effective career guidance programme is in place to support learners to achieve their ambitions and explore opportunities they may not know exist for them
- Governance arrangements include a separate Career College board, with a minimum of 40% representation of employers with sector specialist expertise, relevant to the Career College. This board must oversee and govern the Career College, ensuring that the strategic objectives, values and operational requirements are adhered to. The board will receive regular reports from an identified single senior manager/principal responsible for the leadership and management of the Career College
- Career Colleges owe their origins to Lord Baker, former Secretary of State for Education.



**Career
Colleges**

14–19 Preparing young people for work

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