



Raising the Participation Age (RPA) – Information for young people

What is RPA?

Most 16 and 17-year-olds already choose to carry on their education past Year 11. The Government has changed the law so that everyone will have to carry with some kind of education or training until their 18th birthday.

If you started Year 11 in September 2012, you will need to continue in education or training until at least the end of the school year in which you turn 17. If you are in Year 10 or below, you will need to continue until at least your 18th birthday.

Staying in education doesn't have to mean staying in school, and there are a number of options you can choose:

- Study full-time in a school, college or with a training provider;
- Work or volunteer full-time combined with part-time education or training;
- An apprenticeship (www.apprenticeships.org.uk).

Your school should give you guidance and information on all of the options open to you. Talk to the Careers Adviser attached to your school and your teachers if you want some help to decide what's right for you.

Why are things changing?

The Government recognises that most young people already carry on their education and training after school because it gives you the best chance to get the skills and knowledge that universities and employers are looking for.

Evidence shows that if you get qualifications at this age, it can help you to earn more over your whole lifetime – on average, young people with 2 or more A-Levels earn around 14% more than those without. RPA will mean that all young people are given the opportunity to learn and participate after age 16.

Where can I find out more?

Your school is already responsible for ensuring every student in Years 9-11 have access to independent careers guidance. This advice should cover the full range of post-16 options, including Apprenticeships. (Speak to your link Careers adviser or teachers)

Contact -**Tower Hamlets Careers Service**, 35 Bow Road, London E3 2AD Tel: **020 7364 1401**

www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/careers-service

Email address careers.service@towerhamlets.gov.uk

Careers Advisers can provide information, advice and guidance on your next step

You can contact the National Careers Service for impartial advice at any time by visiting

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

You can also get advice from a trained adviser by contacting the helpline, which is open from 8am to 10pm, seven days a week on 0800 100 900, or for text messages on 07766 413 219.

You can find out more information about RPA at: www.education.gov.uk/rpa

More information on apprenticeships is available at:

<http://www.apprenticeships.org.uk/About-Us/National-Apprenticeship-Service>