

The logo features a large blue letter 'C' with a white arrow pointing clockwise inside it. To the right of the 'C' is the text 'The Quality in Careers Standard' in a bold, dark grey sans-serif font. Further to the right are three blue chevrons pointing to the right.

The Quality in Careers Standard >>>

NEWS STATEMENT: 9th January 2018

“DfE strongly recommends all state-funded secondary schools to work towards, achieve and maintain the Quality in Careers Standard”.

Following the publication of the DfE “Careers Strategy”¹ in December 2017, the Department has now issued revised Statutory Guidance to schools on fulfilling their statutory duties in respect of careers education and guidance.²

This sets the statutory duty in the context of the Gatsby Benchmarks³ for “Good careers guidance”. Included in the revised Statutory Guidance is paragraph 20:

*“20. Schools can gain formal accreditation of their careers programme through the Quality in Careers Standard - the national quality award for careers education, information, advice and guidance. The Standard offers an opportunity for schools to undergo an external evaluation of their careers programme and so is distinct from the Compass self-assessment. Work is continuing to align the Standard more fully to the Benchmarks and to incorporate Compass into its processes, so those schools achieving the Standard meet all eight Benchmarks. **We strongly recommend that all schools work towards the updated Quality in Careers Standard, incorporating Compass, to support the development of their careers programme.**”*

The Quality in Careers Consortium welcomes the DfE’s strategy and its revised Statutory Guidance. We know that there is significant good practice already in many schools and colleges across the country; and we showcase some of this in our Case Studies⁴ on our website.

But good practice is still too patchy - there is so much more to be done to ensure that every young person across the country is provided with quality assured careers education, information, advice and guidance which enables them to gain the knowledge, skills and confidence to take control of their learning and work career pathways.

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/careers-strategy-making-the-most-of-everyones-skills-and-talents>

² https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/672418/Careers_guidance_and_access_for_education_and_training_providers.pdf

³ <http://www.gatsby.org.uk/education/focus-areas/good-career-guidance>

⁴ <http://www.qualityincareers.org.uk/careers-guidance/case-studies/>

Therefore, we welcome the Department's strengthening of its recommendation to schools that they should work towards the Quality in Careers Standard.

We are working on further alignment of our national accreditation criteria to the Gatsby Benchmarks⁵.

Our aim is to publish revised national criteria in May of this year, and formally to incorporate the 'Compass' self-assessment tool into our procedures in the lead-up to our external assessment and accreditation of learning providers' careers provision.

We remain convinced, however, that the Department should make available a dedicated (hypothecated) premium grant to all state-funded secondary schools on condition that they work towards, achieve and maintain the Quality in Careers Standard.

We shall continue to call upon the Department to instigate this – lack of funding is the single biggest impediment to more schools working towards the national Quality in Careers Standard.

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⁵ <http://www.qualityincareers.org.uk/documents/good-career-guidance-and-the-quality-in-careers-standard.pdf>