



The Quality in Careers Standard >>>>

KEY INFORMATION FOR SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES:
May 2023

Introduction

The latest (January 2023) DfE statutory guidance to [schools and colleges](#) on fulfilling their duties builds heavily upon the eight Gatsby Benchmarks for "Good Careers Guidance", and DfE "**strongly recommends**" all secondary schools and colleges to work towards and achieve the national [Quality in Careers Standard](#).

Are all students covered by the DfE's guidance?

All learners in schools and colleges up to and including the age of 18 are covered. In addition, it covers 19- to 25-year-olds with a current Education, Health and Care (EHC) Plan in place under section 37 of the Children and Families Act 2014.

What is the Quality in Careers Standard?

The Standard is the [single national CEIAG quality award](#) which over 1100 Schools, Colleges and Work-based Learning (WBL) providers, across the nine regions of England, already either hold or are working towards achieving. In addition, a growing number are now working towards the Standard in Northern Ireland, the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man.

How does a school or college achieve the award?

Schools, colleges and WBL providers [looking to achieve the award](#) for their overall CEIAG programme of activities need to contact one or more of our [Licensed Awarding Bodies](#). These use our set of [National Accreditation Criteria](#) (incorporating the Gatsby Benchmarks) to work with a learning provider and help them on their 'journey' towards accreditation. They will answer your questions about availability and costs, enabling you to compare and contrast different approaches to quality assurance and developing outstanding CEIAG.

Who regulates these Licensed Awarding Bodies?

The [Quality in Careers Consortium](#) sets the national licensing criteria the Awarding Bodies must meet in order to receive their licence, so that they are able to assess and accredit the individual learning providers with the national Standard.

What are the Gatsby Benchmarks?

These are a framework which schools and colleges can use for improving their careers provision:

1. A stable careers programme
2. Learning from career and labour market information
3. Addressing the needs of each pupil
4. Linking curriculum learning to careers
5. Encounters with employers and employees
6. Experiences of workplaces
7. Encounters with further and higher education
8. Personal guidance

The Benchmarks have also been [adapted](#) to incorporate the needs of pupils and students in special education. Schools and colleges can begin the Quality in Careers journey by self-assessing against the Benchmarks using [Compass](#) and choosing which of our [Licensed Awarding Bodies](#) to work with.