



Information Advice and Support Kent

A service for
special educational needs and disabilities-
helping you to make informed choices

Helpline 03000 41 3000

Email iask@kent.gov.uk

Types of support in college

Everyone has different needs and some students with disabilities, sensory impairment, learning differences, medical conditions and those recovering from mental health problems may need support to get the most out of college life.

There are 2 main types of support that colleges provide these are learning support and supported learning.

Learning support – This is to support you on a mainstream level 1, 2 or 3 course. You may have an Education Health and Care (EHC) plan which states the support that you require. This can be through access to a learning support practitioner (LSP) to support you within the classroom or to provide a mentor/counsellor or specialist ASD support. Other support may also be available.



If you do not have an Education Health and Care plan, you may still receive additional support if you have a diagnosis such as dyslexia, autistic spectrum condition or any other disability/learning difficulty but you will need to provide supporting evidence.

Disability specialist staff are available to advise lecturers, tutors and support staff on appropriate support for individual students and groups.

Supported learning – Programmes are tailor-made to support young people and adults with learning difficulties and/or disabilities to gain Life and Work Skills as well as progression onto another college course while studying in a supportive environment.

Each course provides a unique opportunity to experience learning in a suitable environment and offers qualifications from pre-entry Level to Level 1. This should help you build your skill-set ready for employment or further study.

The programmes focus on developing communication, personal presentation, social skills, independence and improving English and math's skills.

Some lessons take place in the community, providing real-life learning opportunities. You can develop your employability skills with work experience options from supported internal experiences to external opportunities within the community.

If you do not progress to a mainstream course, training or employment you might be able to move onto supported living or social care if appropriate.



If a student aged 16-18 without an Education, Health and Care plan requires a higher level of support, the college may be able to access their High Needs Funding budget to provide this.

For full details on support that a specific college can provide, please refer to their website or contact the college directly.

On request, this information can be provided in alternative formats.

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