

# Meeting the standard

Schools have an obligation to provide satisfactory careers guidance. Janet Colledge of Outstanding Careers asks is yours making the grade?

**I**n January 2018 the government issued updated guidance to outline good practice for careers education, information and guidance in schools. Among the main points that every school should provide for its students were:

## Does your school have an access policy?

Every school must publish an access policy setting out how employers and education providers can gain access to students to inform and educate them on the options available, for example apprenticeships, colleges, studio schools or university technical college courses and employer school leaver programmes. Crucially, the opportunities and information should be accessible to all.

## Has your school got a stable programme of careers activities?

Schools should also publish a core programme of the careers activities they routinely put on for pupils. The programme should outline which activities are planned throughout the year for each year group or class and should include at least one activity for each year group from Years 7 to 13.

## Does your school base its provision on the eight Gatsby Benchmarks?

The Gatsby Benchmarks are a set of indicators by which a school's careers provision is judged. All schools are expected to work towards these with the aim of meeting them by 2020. The benchmarks are:

1. A stable careers programme
2. Learning from career and labour market information: providing information about jobs, pay and opportunities, and supporting you to understand what they mean
3. Addressing the needs of each student: support should be appropriate to each individual
4. Linking curriculum learning to careers: subjects should include information and examples of the ways in which they are used in the working world



5. Encounters with employers and employees: you should have the opportunity to speak to real employers and employees at least once per year
6. Experience of workplaces: you should have the opportunity to do work experience or another method of seeing how workplaces differ from school and to develop the behaviours expected in the workplace
7. Encounters with further and higher education: you should have access to other educational providers apart from your school in order to make informed choices about your educational route
8. Personal guidance: it is recommended that all pupils have access to a careers adviser when major decisions are made

## Do you have access to a properly qualified careers adviser?

Finally, the statutory guidance sets out that you should have access to a well-qualified

professional careers adviser when making decisions at least once in Key Stages 3 and 4 and again in Key Stage 5. The recommended level of qualification is that they are a registered professional on the Career Development Institute register.

So, having read this article, do you think your school meets the guidance? If not, why not ask your teachers what they are doing to ensure that your school is working towards meeting it? ●

Janet Colledge is a Careers Education Consultant with Outstanding Careers and will be speaking at What Careers Live? on the Friday at both the Birmingham and Liverpool events.