

Enrichment activities and qualifications

“All children should receive a rich provision of classroom and extra-curricular activities that develop a range of character attributes, such as resilience and grit, which underpin success in education and employment.” Careers guidance and inspiration in schools (DfE, Statutory guidance March 2015)

Youth Connexions offers a range of opportunities which can enrich the curriculum, support young people to develop their personal, social and employability skills and prepare them for life in modern Britain.

City & Guilds 5546 Employability Skills qualification

Youth Connexions is an accredited centre for delivery, assessment and internal quality assurance of this nationally recognised qualification which focuses on preparing young people for the world of work. Based on the skills and qualities that today’s employers are looking for, bespoke programmes can be tailored to meet specific needs and be delivered by Youth Connexions alone or in partnership with the school.



With the aim of supporting individuals to develop the skills, knowledge and understanding to progress successfully in education or into employment, the qualification has been designed in collaboration with experts from industry sectors, professionals from employment and recruitment and learning providers. This has ensured the content meets the needs of and is valued by today’s employment market and also meets the needs of 16-19 study programmes.

Schools can tailor an employability skills programme by selecting from a wide range of units from Entry Level 2 to Level 2, thereby delivering a qualification bespoke to the needs of learners. Learners can achieve a range of qualifications from a 2 credit Introductory Award up to a 37 credit Diploma. The programme works well combined with functional skills Maths and English qualifications which can complement and widen the range of qualifications the learner can achieve.

“The course helps you to realise the silver linings of yourself and give yourself credit where it is due for even the smallest of things. And that is what you need because it is the little things that make the biggest impact on people. The course makes you feel confident and strong; that there is no reason to be scared.” (KS4 Student, Stevenage)

The Duke of Edinburgh’s Award (DofE)

As the Hertfordshire Operating Authority for the DofE, Youth Connexions supports the delivery of this award by:

- Enabling the development of new centres
- Providing a programme of training
- Providing advice and support on specific queries as they are raised
- Reviewing all expedition notifications and processing variations
- Verifying and processing e-DofE Awards

For schools or other providers who would like to offer the award but need to develop their skills, Youth Connexions can offer tailored packages ranging from working alongside staff to directly delivering the award to the young people.

Learning outside the classroom (LOtC)

Ofsted recognises the benefits of LOtC and its impact on raised attainment, improved behaviour and motivating and engaging children in learning, especially those who may not learn well in the traditional classroom setting. (OFSTED 2012)

Hertfordshire County Council has four outdoor

education centres: Hudnall Park, Herts Young Mariners Base, Cuffley Camp and the Snowdonia Centre which support the LOtC agenda providing children and young people with opportunities to develop personal and social

skills which are vital when negotiating the world of work and preparing young people for independent living. The centres also have an outreach programme, where instructors can come to you.

Further information is provided on the LOtC product sheet.

Young people's democracy

The UK Youth Parliament (UKYP) provides opportunities for 11-18 year olds to use their voice in creative ways to bring about social change.

Members of the Youth Parliament (MYPs) play an important role in representing their peers and making sure that young people's voices are heard. Each year, young people from across the county are elected

by their peers for five MYP seats and five deputy MYP places. Taking part in this process is a valuable experience of democracy and also contributes to Citizenship and PSHE Curriculum activities.



School councils are encouraged to work alongside MYPs in the development of a collective 'Youth Voice'. Youth Connexions supports both the election process and the MYPs and can work with learning institutions to ensure young people can participate in all aspects of the process.

Youth Connexions can offer bespoke sessions working with students to help them understand the importance of the young person's voice and develop creative ways to use it.

For more information or to purchase our services

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