

## The Options & Careers Advice Service at Victoria School

The Options & Careers Advice service is available to each student as they move through school.

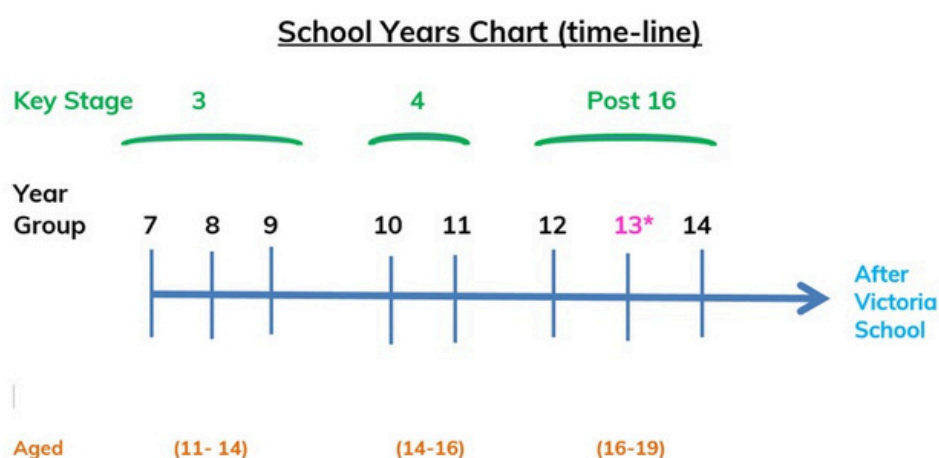
Transition (moving on) is sometimes used to describe moving into another class or building in school, or leaving school, usually in the summer of Year 14.

Students start learning transition skills as soon as they join Victoria School, to help them become as independent as they can be for the future. Students are supported by lots of different school staff e.g. teaching staff, Therapists (Speech & Language, Occupational Therapists, Physiotherapists), and the Options & Careers Adviser, to enable them to become as independent as possible to help them make choices about their adulthood. Social Care services can use the word transition to describe the move from Children's Social Care to Adult Social Care services.

Some councils have a transition team where social workers from both services meet young people (and their families/carers), to support this move (usually from 17½ onwards) to the adult service at 18 years of age.

## When can you use the Options & Careers Advice Service?

So students and their families/carers know what their options and choices are, they can work with the Options & Careers Adviser from Year 7 until they leave school, but especially at important times in education e.g. Year 9, Year 11, and Year 14 - where choices are needed about placements.



\*18 years- earliest age you can leave education/training <https://www.gov.uk/know-when-you-can-leave-school>

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As everyone is different, the Options & Careers Adviser will work with the student (and others who know them well e.g. parent/carer, teacher, social worker) to find the most suitable transition options or choices for them to think about.

The Options & Careers Adviser will find out:

- what the student likes doing
- what the student is good at
- what the student might want to do in adulthood

Example 1: the student really likes being with other people, they are good at making eye-contact, and they want to learn to use Eye-gaze so they can make their own choices (looking at sensory education courses, adult day activities, etc).

Example 2: the student really likes playing sports, and are really good at Boccia and wheelchair hockey, and they want to become a PE teacher or Sports Coach (looking at education and work choices, etc).

### Options & Choices

There are usually several options available to each student leaving Victoria School, and individual meetings can help them to talk about these in more detail. Options advice is adapted to make sure everyone's needs, wishes, strengths and abilities/disabilities, are carefully considered. Student observations are available for students who do not benefit from a meeting. The Options & Careers Adviser will work with students (where appropriate) and their parents/carers to support decision making, advising on Plan A and Plan B options.

The aim of the service is to make sure all students and their families/carers are shown options that motivate them, and which enables them to continue to achieve and live an interesting and fulfilled life when they leave Victoria.

### Examples of options:

- Creating an individual programme of day activities (if funding is available)
- Education or training courses

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- Adult Social Care day activities
- Apprenticeships/Supported Apprenticeships
- Supported Internships or employment option

### **Further information on the school website:**

The school website has more detailed information on options and choices and can be accessed at: [www.victoria.poole.sch.uk](http://www.victoria.poole.sch.uk)

### **Victoria Options & Careers Information sheets e.g.:**

- Picture version of Options & Careers information sheet
- Options & Careers Information book
- What is an Options & Careers meeting?
- Applying to College/training provider time-line
- Independent Specialist College (ISPs) information sheet

### **Sue Thorns – Options & Careers Adviser**

Please email: [SThorns@victoria.poole.sch.uk](mailto:SThorns@victoria.poole.sch.uk) for an appointment

(term-time, on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays)