



14–19:

extending opportunities,
raising standards

consultation document

Presented to Parliament
by the Secretary of State for the
Department for Education and Skills
by command of Her Majesty
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Foreword by Estelle Morris, Secretary of State for Education and Skills

Our aim is nothing less than a world-class education service with standards that match the best in the world, and where all our young people develop the confidence, skills and knowledge that they will need as adults. Our proposal for a new 14-19 phase is an important step towards achieving that goal for our country.



In the last Parliament we said that we would get the basics right in primary schools. We have made an excellent start. Standards of literacy and numeracy

have risen sharply. The pledge to reduce infant class sizes to no more than 30 has been delivered. There is further progress to make in primary and early years provision, but the foundations are now secure.

The drive for world-class performance demands that we now modernise secondary education, as we consolidate and extend the growing success of the primary sector.

Bringing about a step-change in performance at secondary level is the top priority for us in the next five years. This Paper on how we deliver education for 14–19 year olds underpins our commitment to this cause. We want to ensure that every secondary school and college is excellent in providing the central core of learning, but also has a distinctive mission and ethos.

In the 20th century the education system was too often a one-size-fits-all structure. It neither demanded nor provided excellent standards in education for everyone. Nor did the education system adequately target the needs of the individual pupil.

In the 21st century, to be prosperous, the economy will depend heavily on the creativity and skills of its people. In a knowledge economy it is vital that we tap the potential of every one of our citizens.

So what young people need from our education system is changing rapidly. We must build a flexible system around the needs and aspirations of individual pupils.

The reforms of the last four years have laid the foundations for this shift:

- we have reached, a year early, our target that half of our young people should get five or more good GCSEs, and A Level standards continue to improve;
- individual pupil-level targeting is now accepted practice in many primary and secondary schools;

- Learning Mentors provide assistance to individual pupils;
- subject by subject setting enables teachers to meet the talents of individual pupils more effectively;
- ICT allows pupils to take greater control of their own learning.

The 14-19 phase builds on this transition towards greater flexibility and, by modernising the curriculum, puts the needs of the individual learner at the heart of the education system.

The policies we outline in this document have the potential to transform the learning experience of every pupil in secondary education. For too long, vocational studies and qualifications have been undervalued. This must change – we must introduce qualifications and pathways that are of an excellent standard, that deserve and are accorded high status, that are not a sink option for failed students, but which can lead the bright and able through into higher education and beyond.

The need for reform of the 14-19 curriculum in our secondary schools has never been more urgent. There are four central challenges that our country must address if we are to guarantee economic prosperity and social justice for all in this new century.

Our first challenge is to **build an education system in which every young person and every parent has confidence**. It must demand excellence of all, and offer and reward high standards. The choices we are offering must not determine a young person's future irrevocably at 14, but should be flexible enough to allow young people to choose from both academic and vocational routes and switch between options as new interests and aptitudes become apparent. Greater flexibility in the curriculum will also be used to stretch the most able, allowing them to accelerate at 14 and beyond.

Whether young people choose academic, vocational or a mixture of options at 14, there will be a clear ladder of progression. Our aim is clear – keeping young people in education and training at 16, academic excellence, high-quality vocational routes and increased participation in higher education. This will build the foundations for lifelong learning among future generations. It will be a system in which all are valued and all can have confidence.

Secondly, **we must ensure that no young person is denied the chance of a decent education**. Every passing day when a child is unable to fulfil their potential is another day lost, not only to that child but also to the whole community.

Our proposals should engage those young people who have traditionally been alienated and disaffected from school. This year around 5% of our young people did not get any GCSEs at all, and although the proportion of young people getting five or more A*–C grades at GCSE has risen dramatically since 1997, it remains only 50% of the cohort.

No society can tolerate under-achievement on this scale. School must engage every young person. Social inclusion as well as economic prosperity remains a key objective of our 14–19 proposals.

Thirdly, we must reap the skills benefits of an education system that matches the needs of the knowledge economy.

It is estimated that by 2004 the UK economy will have a skill shortage of 150,000 network ICT workers alone. If our education system does not quickly respond to this demand for new skills the damage to national economic performance will be considerable.

And fourthly, **we must promote education with character.** Academic achievement is essential, but education must also be a basis for citizenship and inclusion. It is important that young people learn to know right from wrong; get along with their fellow students; work in teams; make a contribution to the school or college as a community; and develop positive attitudes to life and work. This is important not only

for their own personal development, but also because employers increasingly emphasise not just academic qualifications, but skills and attitudes such as enterprise, innovation, teamwork, creativity and flexibility.

We want every young person to have the chance to be involved in sport, music and the arts, and to play a role in their local community, as well as achieving academically. We have taken steps to increase the opportunities for secondary school children in these areas, and put forward here our proposal for an overarching award which could be used to recognise and reward participation in wider activities.

Taken together, our 14–19 proposals offer a coherent vision for the transformation of secondary education: higher standards; greater diversity of provision; high-quality vocational education; every school and college improving; and every young person able to achieve their potential in education and life.

Our young people are entitled to nothing less.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Estelle Morris'.

Estelle Morris, Secretary of State
for Education and Skills



Chapter 1

The vision for the 14–19 phase

Summary: We set out an evolving vision for greater coherence in the 14–19 phase of education and training in England and the challenges and opportunities it presents to all those with a stake in the changes we propose.

1.1 Half a century ago, at the time of the 1944 Education Act, it was clear that the nation needed to develop better vocational and technical education to meet the needs of a rapidly changing post-war society. It did not happen. During the last sixty years, the pace of social and economic change has increased dramatically and successive attempts have been made to improve vocational education and raise its standing in society. In practice most of these changes were piecemeal and enjoyed limited or no more than short-term success, while a long tradition of apprenticeship training was allowed to go into decline. There is no economic basis for undervaluing vocational education and qualifications. Yet this is precisely England's post-war legacy. We need now to rectify the traditional neglect of vocational education as a route to success and encourage far more young people to stay on in learning after age 16. We must also continue to break down the divide between education and training and emphasise that all pathways contribute to employability and responsible citizenship.

1.2 More people need to be better educated than ever before if we are to be a successful high-skills economy. The decline in semi-skilled and unskilled jobs is irreversible. To make a significant impact on national competitiveness and productivity we need to focus on the full range of abilities and skills. All, not just some, young people need to continue their education and training beyond the compulsory years. There will be rapid changes in the knowledge and skills required for particular jobs, so everybody needs to be motivated to engage in lifelong learning. At least half our young adults should at some stage enter higher education if our economy is to have enough people with higher-level skills.

1.3 In these circumstances we have to design a truly coherent education system that runs from the early years to adulthood. Sixteen has been a traditional break point in education. We need to transform it from a point at which young people divide into those who stay on and those who leave into a point where every young person is committed to continuing to learn.

1.4 Our aim is that the 14–19 phase of education and training in England should:

- raise the levels of achievement of all young people in both general and vocational qualifications and increase participation in post-16 education and training, including higher education;
- meet the needs and aspirations of all young people, so that they are motivated to make a commitment to lifelong learning and to become socially responsible citizens and workers;
- broaden the skills acquired by all young people to improve their employability, bridge the skills gap identified by employers, and overcome social exclusion;
- be delivered through flexible, integrated and innovative networks of collaborative providers committed to achieving ambitious new goals for all young people in the 14–19 phase of their lives and their education.

This is ambitious but essential to our overall mission of building a modern Britain based on economic success and social justice.

1.5 It is not only a matter of raising levels of achievement and skill, though the need to raise performance is pressing. It is also about the development of the whole

person and making sure our young people are prepared for a world that is very different from the one in which their parents grew up. The present generation of young people needs the skills to enable them to be confident of long-term employability and to respond flexibly to the unknown challenges ahead. And they must be prepared for an adult life in which they are involved as active, responsible citizens in their communities and in which they can contribute to the country's economic and social well-being.

THE CHALLENGE

1.6 Only three out of four 16–18 year olds in England were in education and training at the end of 2000 and, although this figure has been rising, it is of serious concern that it remains well below European and OECD averages. This situation can no longer be tolerated.

1.7 A recent report¹ found that, overall, the proportions of the workforce holding Level 2² and Level 3³ qualifications in the UK are below those in France and Germany. Although the gap between the UK and the best of the rest of the world is narrowing in terms of the achievement of Level 2 qualifications, the majority of these gains are made by rising attainment at GCSE.

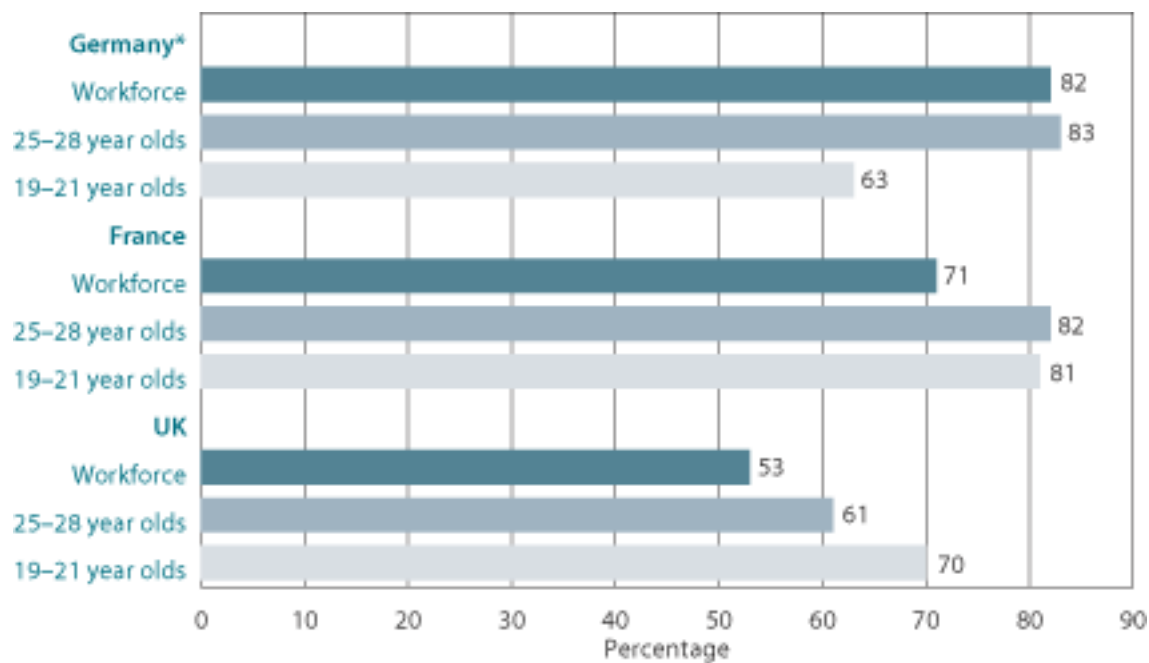
1.8 The impact of a skills shortage was demonstrated in a series of studies⁴ that compared UK firms with similar firms in

¹ Campbell et al, *Skills in England 2001: research report*: Department for Education and Skills

² 5 or more GCSEs at A*–C, an intermediate GNVQ, NVQ Level 2 or other equivalent qualification

³ 2 or more GCE A Levels, an advanced GNVQ, NVQ Level 3 or other equivalent qualification

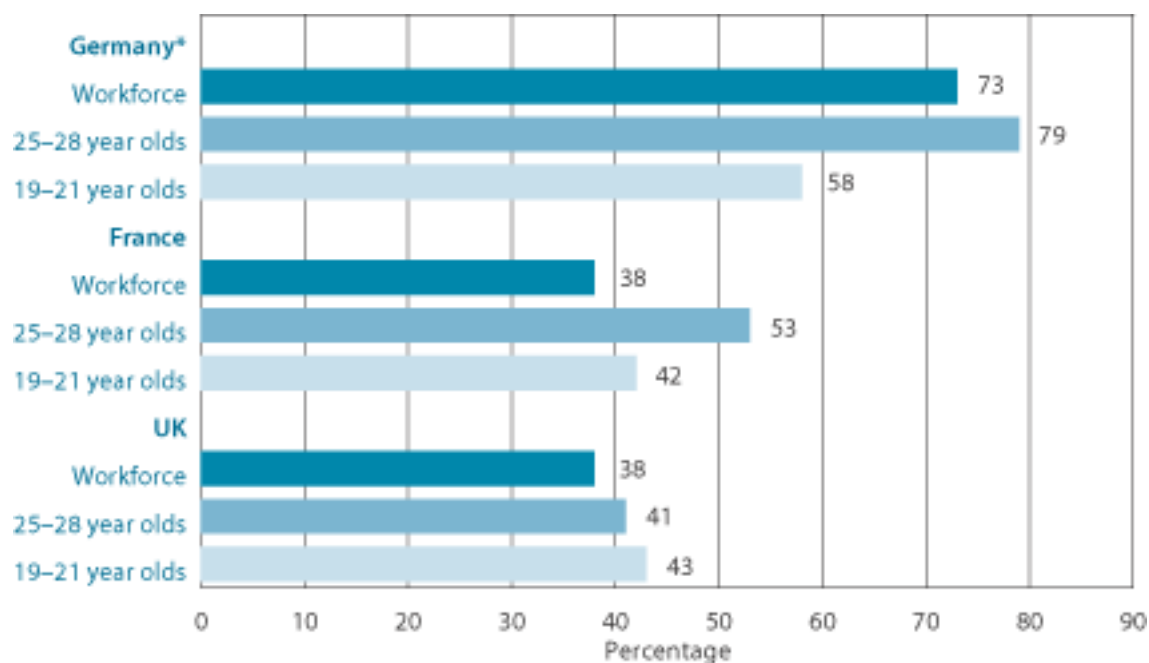
Qualifications at NVQ Level 2+ or equivalent in UK, France and Germany, 1998



Source: Steedman in DTI 2001 as quoted in Campbell et al, *Skills in England 2001: research report*: Department for Education and Skills

*Germany data is 1997

Qualifications at NVQ Level 3+ or equivalent in UK, France and Germany, 1998



Source: Steedman in DTI 2001 as quoted in Campbell et al, *Skills in England 2001: research report*: Department for Education and Skills

*Germany data is 1997

competitor countries. A clear connection was found between higher skills and higher productivity. UK Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per head, although close to EU and OECD averages, is 21% below the G7 average.⁵ Productivity is a key determinant of GDP per head and needs to improve if our economic performance is to improve. We want to close the productivity gap with international economies. This requires fundamental improvement to our skills base. We must therefore increase retention and achievement post-16.

1.9 Across the OECD successful completion of post-16 education and training programmes is becoming the norm. What is common to other OECD countries is the esteem in which both vocational and general studies are held and the ability of students to progress to higher education from either of them. The lack of high-quality vocational pathways in the UK explains in part why far too many young people do not reach or move beyond Level 2, or fall out of education and training before they are 19. The case for improving skills, and especially intermediate and technical skills, is irrefutable, as many employers have insisted and the Skills Task Force⁶ has demonstrated.

1.10 The recent report from the OECD⁷ on the study of how well schools had

equipped young people with the skills for adult life showed the UK performance to be world-class. But the study also showed that there was too big a gap between high and low attainers in the UK and that socio-economic background remained a barrier to educational success. This has to be overcome in our national interest: social justice and economic success mean we must do all we can to remove the notorious long tail of under-performance that mars our record in education.

1.11 At present, less than 20% of young people under 21 from the lower socio-economic groups go to university compared with over 70% from the highest⁸. The key factor that determines whether or not young people enter higher education is their achievement at age 18/19. If they have achieved Level 3 then in the vast majority of cases they will progress to higher education. That is the importance and challenge of 14–19 education and training. One of our major targets is to increase and broaden participation in higher education so that by the end of the decade 50% of those aged between 18 and 30 will participate, with access widened for those whose families have no previous experience of higher education. Getting the proper representation of students from low-income families in higher education

⁴ Prais, S. (1995), *Productivity, Education and Training: An International Perspective*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press

⁵ OECD data quoted in a 2001 DTI Report: *UK Competitiveness Indicators*: second edition. G7 countries are Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, UK and US

⁶ DfEE (2000), *Skills for All: Research Report from the National Skills Task Force*

⁷ *Knowledge and Skills for Life – First Results from PISA 2000*

⁸ GB Age Participation Index

depends heavily on transforming their experience of the 14–19 phase in school, college or workplace.

1.12 There is another, equally important, 50%: those who do not enter higher education. Their needs are very varied and sometimes highly specialised and so will be met only through a diverse but co-ordinated system of education and training. Designing the system, so that it will attract and retain these young people in worthwhile education and training between 16 and 19, is as great a challenge as expanding higher education. But it is a challenge we have started to meet. Further foundations are laid in this Green Paper.

1.13 Today young people aged between 14 and 19 may be more independent and autonomous than were their parents and grandparents. They also demand more from their education and training and are quicker to reject what they do not like and what does not meet their immediate needs. At the same time, they can find the world and their lives more complex and more confusing. Between 14 and 19 young people are striving to develop their personal and social identities: they are assertive yet lacking self-confidence and vulnerable in their inexperience. They need and deserve better education and training. They also need support and guidance to help them to take best advantage of the opportunities available.

1.14 Making 14–19 education and training into a coherent phase means that all learners should have appropriate and challenging programmes that will help

them achieve their ambitions. Coherence also means that learners should be offered choice and progression in learning, with continuity and stability. The existing 14–16 curriculum and the different content and structure in the post-16 curriculum, the institutional break that occurs at some point for most students and the relative weakness of vocational pathways mean that it will take time and effort to create such coherence for all.

1.15 The proposals in this document to improve the coherence of the 14–19 phase build on existing measures – such as Education Maintenance Allowances, the Curriculum 2000 reforms and improved Modern Apprenticeships – which aim to increase participation in, and broaden, post-16 education and training. We have undertaken to evaluate the effect of these reforms when sufficient information is available, in order to ensure that students’ participation and experiences in post-16 education and training prepare them well for their future careers.

1.16 We need some changes: we have to decide what needs to be done and how to do it and then put it into practice over a carefully planned period of change.

THE OPPORTUNITIES

1.17 Over the past five years significant progress has been made to raise standards in the primary years. The success of the primary literacy and numeracy strategies and the Key Stage 3 strategy (see paragraph 2.3) will ensure that young people reach the age of 14 with a sound

grasp of the basics and a good general education. We must build on these strong foundations to transform our post-14 education and training.

1.18 The outline proposals for a coherent 14–19 phase in England were included in the White Paper *Schools achieving success*. These were strongly endorsed: three out of every four respondents supported or strongly supported the proposal to introduce new pathways for all from age 14.

1.19 Our proposals also respond to what young people themselves are saying. The evidence on their views⁹ about what they would like to see suggests that:

- there is significant interest in vocational options, but, since they are aware that vocational courses are often held in lower esteem than general ones, they are not attracted to them;
- work experience is valuable and enjoyable, but for some it is a missed or inadequate opportunity because it is irrelevant or unchallenging to the individual young person;
- a flexible curriculum can help to combat the disaffection and boredom currently felt by some pupils, by giving them more choice and providing a better match between learning programmes and individual aspirations;
- young people need more support to make their choices, with family and friends having the strongest influence;
- qualifications are seen as important for progression.

1.20 The best education is far more than the acquisition of knowledge, skills and qualifications. It also helps young people to develop attitudes and values that provide the basis for a successful and rewarding life in the home, at work and in the community. Young people in this new century should have self-confidence, the ability to be self-critical, the drive to take on new challenges and take risks and the capacity to relate to others in positive, constructive ways. Today's generation of young people needs these skills.

1.21 In short, all those with a stake in the 14–19 phase, and not least the young people themselves, believe the time is right for us to take further action to address the coherence of 14–19 education and training.

OUR PROPOSALS

1.22 If young people are to continue in learning after the age of 16, they must be able to follow courses that meet their aspirations and match their abilities. It is not a matter of fitting students into a rigid and inflexible educational system, but of offering greater choice within education and training in the 14–19 phase. It means devising equally-valued pathways, both

⁹ Source: Youth Cohort Study; several research studies

general and vocational, which allow young people to switch pathways in the light of their emerging needs and aspirations. We will increase the level of investment in future years to sustain further development, as resources permit. Announcements about future funding will be made in the summer.

1.23 The objectives of our proposed reforms are:

- the curriculum needs to become more flexible and responsive to students' individual needs. It must motivate them so they stay in learning and it must challenge the most able. For some this entails providing more and better vocational opportunities. For others it means beginning advanced level study early, either alongside GCSE programmes or by skipping GCSEs in some subjects. For yet another group it may mean taking more time to reach a higher level of attainment. All pathways should potentially lead to an overarching award at age 18/19 that recognises and records young people's achievements;
- we need to build a world-class system of education which delivers the technical and vocational skills of an advanced economy so that every young person has a pathway to success. It will be a one-tier system with many different pathways which all provide progression. Technical and vocational education should become a positive and fulfilling choice, not a second-class fallback for the less able or disaffected.

Collaborative working between schools and colleges, supported by the Learning and Skills Council (LSC), local education authorities (LEAs) and employers, is beginning to break down the barrier between general and vocational education. We need to ensure that vocational options and programmes are coherent, so that they equip young people both with broad knowledge and skills and with the specialist expertise and competences needed for the workplace. They must also be as rigorous as the traditional academic pathway. We need stronger involvement of employers, including small and medium-sized enterprises, in supporting the curriculum and in offering more opportunities for effective learning in the workplace, so that young people can see how they are gaining skills relevant to their future careers;

- if young people are to make choices they need good, reliable information and strong pastoral support, from their schools and colleges as well as their parents and carers. Impartial advice and guidance will be vital;
- the 14–19 phase must become more responsive to those with special educational needs; to those from a range of ethnic backgrounds; to those from low-income families; and to those in danger of social exclusion. While the majority of young people will not need special arrangements, some may be necessary if all young people are to have access to the new opportunities we intend to create. Increased flexibility

in the curriculum, offering broader and more tailored opportunities for learning, should help schools and colleges to encourage and support young people in regaining their enthusiasm for learning and for staying on in education or training. It also gives a chance to remotivate young people who may have become disaffected with school and consequently display challenging behaviour which can disrupt both their and others' learning;

- much closer collaboration and innovative working between schools, colleges and training providers will be essential. This can build on the best of what is already being developed. In those circumstances some students may have to attend more than one institution at some point in their programmes. Every student in this phase needs the security of an educational base; the home institution, whether school or college, should be responsible for securing the welfare of the students on its roll and for ensuring continuity and progression for all. Teachers in 11–16 schools will need to help students plan for the whole 14–19 phase, not just the initial part that ends at 16. Over time, the focus on achievement at 16 will shift to age 19;
- flexible access and delivery through Information and Communications Technology (ICT) and e-learning will be needed. This applies especially to dispersed groups of learners, such as those in rural areas and those choosing minority options. Curriculum Online will

support these choices by making access to a wide range of digital resources easier and offering a coherent, consistent and comprehensive service, regardless of location.

GETTING THERE

1.24 Our detailed proposals are in the following chapters. They apply to England only. We have talked to individual teachers, headteachers, college principals and other providers, employers, young people and others with a stake in 14–19 learning, as well as to organisations representing 14–19 providers, higher education and business. We have found wide-ranging support for the objectives and broad thrust of our 14–19 proposals. Many of those we have talked to have offered examples of existing effective practice and made valuable suggestions about how 14–19 learning can be improved. We have sought to reflect these in our proposals. We have taken especial note of those who have emphasised that changes must be carefully paced and tested.

1.25 Much is already happening in different parts of the country to develop the 14–19 phase, including the use of online and distance learning. Some of this is reflected in the case studies included in this document. Bodies such as the Learning and Skills Development Agency, the National Association of Head Teachers and the Secondary Heads Association have prepared policy papers. The Association of Colleges has been active in this area; and a number of LEAs are moving to develop the 14–19 phase. This Green Paper offers an

opportunity to share ideas and to identify best practice in line with our aims. Along the way, the proposals can be refined and turned into action plans. There are radical implications for relationships between institutions.

1.26 Both schools and colleges are central to our vision of delivering a coherent 14–19 phase. Many are now collaborating with each other, for example to provide vocational opportunities at Key Stage 4 or through joint curriculum planning to extend the range of choices available to young people. Our proposals build on the work already under way in schools and colleges across the country and will encourage the spread of best practice.

1.27 The consultation on this Green Paper must involve its participants in debate and dialogue and we shall provide sufficient time for this to take place. We will involve young people in the consultation.

1.28 We will try out different models as the basis for planning further developments and providing guidance on best practice. Changes must be tested and proved to be robust before they are introduced more widely. The pace of change must be matched to the capacity of those involved to be confident that every change is an improvement. Our proposals will encourage institutions to innovate, but we also recognise that they will want to move at different rates to develop the 14–19 phase. We shall plan carefully to avoid overload on those who will implement the changes and to make sure that each development dovetails with

previous improvements. An illustrative timetable is suggested in Appendix 1.

THE OUTCOMES OF THE 14–19 PHASE

1.29 Our ambitious aim, which we are continuing to pursue through the development of a coherent 14–19 phase in England, will be to achieve:

- higher levels of participation and higher standards of attainment for all young people by age 19;
- a commitment by all young people to lifelong learning;
- increased employability for all young people, whether before or after higher education;
- more rounded students with a broader education, who will be more motivated and more responsible citizens and workers, able to contribute to a productive economy;
- a reduction in the numbers of those who truant from school and drop out of education and training after the age of 16, because we cannot afford to waste the lives of any of the nation's young people;
- a greatly improved 14–19 system of education and training which is of world-class standard and of which we can be proud.

Q: Do you share our vision of the 14–19 phase?



Chapter 2

14–19: marking the start of the phase

Summary: The 14–19 phase of learning should be marked by a clear beginning, middle and end. The phase should start with a review of achievement towards the end of Key Stage 3. This will provisionally identify longer-term career and learning goals, including the achievement of the Matriculation Diploma by age 19. It will inform the choice of options for 14–16 while not ruling out a subsequent change of goals. The outcome of the review might be recorded in an individual learning plan to form the basis for monitoring and review throughout the 14–19 phase. GCSEs and equivalent qualifications should become a progress check around the midpoint of the phase. We ask for views on the best way of helping schools to prepare young people for entry to the 14–19 phase.

2.1 Our proposals for a new 14–19 phase start from the notion that it should be marked by a clear beginning, middle and end:

- the 14–19 phase should begin with a review of progress between the pupil, his or her parents or carers and teachers in the school. In the case of young people at risk of disengaging from learning or those who are underachieving, the Connexions Service will be involved where it can add value to the work of schools. This review should identify longer-term goals and aspirations on a provisional basis. It would inform the selection of options for study and wider activities in the initial period after age 14. The start of the new phase might be marked by the preparation of a plan setting out goals and how they will be pursued;
- the core of the phase contains the learning leading to qualifications; other learning undertaken for personal development, for example in citizenship; and wider activities, often outside the school or college environment;
- the end of the phase would be marked by a new overarching award – the Matriculation Diploma – which would recognise young people’s achievements.

2.2 GCSEs and equivalent qualifications will continue to have an important role but will over time evolve into a progress check around the midpoint of the 14–19 phase. We make proposals later for greater flexibility over the timing of GCSEs and for other qualifications to be recognised as suitable for some 16 year olds.

MOVING ON FROM KEY STAGE 3

2.3 We acknowledged in the White Paper *Schools achieving success* that there had been growing concern about the slow progress children make between the ages of 11 and 14 and we set out our agenda for raising standards for this age group – the Key Stage 3 strategy. As it achieves its goals the vast majority of young people will, by the age of 14, have:

- reached a good standard (level 5 or above in the National Curriculum) in the basics of English, mathematics, science and ICT;
- benefited from a broad curriculum, including studying each of the National Curriculum subjects; and
- learned how to reason, think logically and creatively, and take increasing responsibility for their own learning.

The strategy is intended to stretch all pupils. Catch-up materials and classes will help pupils who are falling behind. Special programmes are available for children with special educational needs and to help schools meet the needs of gifted and talented pupils. Young people who have fallen behind their peers by age 14 will need particular support to make the transition to the 14–19 phase. The strategy will provide a firm platform of achievement from which to launch significant improvements to the experiences of young people after the age of 14.

MAKING THE RIGHT CHOICES AT AGE 14

2.4 Support for young people towards the end of Key Stage 3 will be crucial in raising their aspirations and in providing advice and guidance on the choice of pathways. The wider range of options from age 14 and the focus on outcomes at 19 rather than 16 mean that choices made towards the end of Key Stage 3 will assume a greater significance. However, choices made then should not constrain young people to particular pathways if later it becomes clear that it is in their best interests to change. Chapter 6 offers a discussion of the range of support that young people will need before and during the 14–19 phase.

2.5 Much effective practice exists to help young people plan their learning. The end of Key Stage 3 is already a significant point, when schools have arrangements in place to help young people consider their learning goals and make their choices wisely. For young people aged 13 and over, Progress File¹⁰ has been developed to help them plan and review their learning transitions. Progress File materials are currently used by about a third of secondary schools and we intend to make them more widely available later this year to all providers of 13–19 education who want to make use of them. The materials will be revised as necessary in the light of evaluation.

2.6 We want to help schools build on existing good practice in preparing and motivating young people for entry to the

¹⁰ Progress File is a set of guidance and working materials to help young people from age 13 and adults to record, review and present their achievements, set goals, and make progression in learning and in work.

14–19 phase and helping them to manage their subsequent learning with an eye to their eventual careers. This will include guidance on good practice in careers education and guidance throughout Key Stage 3 (see chapter 6). The aim is to:

- mark the end of Key Stage 3 and entry into the 14–19 phase;
- raise young people’s aspirations towards staying on in learning post-16, the Matriculation Diploma, higher education and their eventual careers;
- ensure that young people are equipped with the skills to plan, manage and review their learning and to set personal targets; and
- help them to choose the most suitable options from age 14, and to identify the learning and other development they need to gain the Matriculation Diploma at age 19.

2.7 We do not propose a single model for achieving these aims. For the purpose of this Paper, we are using the term ‘individual learning plan’. We should welcome suggestions on how this should be developed. For pupils with special educational needs, we suggest that transition plans¹¹ should stand in the place of individual learning plans. Teachers will of course continue to play an important

role in providing advice and guidance to their students, who will also have access to external, impartial careers advice. Models may need to be developed in different ways in different places. The work already done in connection with Progress File provides a possible basis for development. We should like to know what sort of support will be helpful to schools in achieving the aims listed above, in particular from the Connexions Service as this is rolled out. We could also offer guidance on how different models might be developed and prepare a toolkit for use by schools, but invite views on whether schools would welcome these.

2.8 We want to encourage more students, particularly from disadvantaged backgrounds, to aim for higher education. Choices at 14 will offer a chance to encourage them to raise their aspirations, help them to appreciate the benefits of higher education, and give them the opportunity to visit higher education institutions. The Excellence Challenge, which aims to increase the number of young people from disadvantaged backgrounds who apply for and enter higher education, is providing support in some areas.

Q: Do you agree that the aims set out in paragraph 2.6 are the right ones to mark the start of the phase?

¹¹ Transition plans must be drawn up for young people with statements of special educational needs following the Year 9 review of those statements in order to plan for the young person’s transition to adult life. Connexions advisers will be available to help with transition planning for all young people with special educational needs but without statements.

Q: Do you support the proposal that pupils should draw up an individual learning plan towards the end of Key Stage 3 to plot how they would achieve their planned goals by age 19?

Q: What support should be available to prepare young people for entry to the 14–19 phase:

- *from the school?*
- *from the Connexions Service?*

Q: Would you welcome guidance on how different models of marking the start of the 14–19 phase might be developed?

Q: Would it be helpful for schools to have access to a toolkit based on the approaches, materials and processes developed for Progress File?

Q: Are there any further measures that might be taken to encourage young people from groups under-represented in higher education to aim for entry to higher education?



Chapter 3

the content of the 14–19 curriculum

Summary: We reaffirm our belief that up to age 19 all young people should be entitled to experience breadth and balance in their learning. We acknowledge, however, that the current structure of the curriculum at Key Stage 4 can be a barrier to student motivation and the flexibility of individual programmes.

We propose a new structure for the National Curriculum at Key Stage 4. We believe there should be a core of compulsory subjects that are essential for progression and development beyond the end of compulsory schooling. All pupils should study mathematics, English, science and ICT, alongside citizenship, religious education, careers education, sex education, physical education (PE) and work-related learning.

We propose a new statutory entitlement of access to a subject within each of modern foreign languages, design and technology, the arts and the humanities.

We intend to develop more vocational qualifications and new hybrid qualifications that combine traditional general subjects with their vocational applications. We will ensure that new qualifications are robust and high-quality. We intend to call all GCSEs and A levels by a subject title, without any vocational label. We propose to enable the most able students to demonstrate a greater depth of understanding at advanced level through introducing more demanding questions into A2 papers, leading to a new distinction grade for the higher achievers. The new generation of Modern Apprenticeships will form an important part of a 14–19 vocational pathway.

We propose that all 16–19 year olds should be entitled to continue studying literacy, numeracy and ICT until they have reached at least Level 2.

3.1 The purpose of the National Curriculum is to ensure that all young people during the period of compulsory education follow a broad and balanced programme. This is a principle to which we remain committed as we strive for ever higher standards of attainment. However, the current construction of Key Stage 4 positions it as the final stage of

compulsory education, ending in GCSEs. We believe it needs to be seen as the beginning of a more coherent phase through to age 19, leading to employment or higher education and setting the scene for continued lifelong learning.

KEY STAGE 4: THE 14–16 AGE GROUP – THE CURRENT POSITION

3.2 After a review in 1999, revisions to the National Curriculum were introduced in 2000. At Key Stage 4 the core and foundation subjects currently comprise English, mathematics, science, design and technology, modern foreign languages, ICT, and PE. Citizenship will be added from 2002. Religious education, sex education and careers education are also compulsory.

3.3 For each National Curriculum subject at Key Stage 4, programmes of study specify what is to be taught to pupils of different abilities and maturity. Pupils are then entered for qualifications; for the vast majority of pupils these are GCSEs. The GCSE serves a range of important purposes and functions:

- it provides a clear and worthwhile goal for students at the end of Key Stage 4;
- it provides a progress check in subjects and helps young people choose what they want to study after age 16;
- it is a record of what has been achieved in subjects that will not be pursued further;
- it is a common requirement for entry to FE and Modern Apprenticeships;
- it is an important accountability measure for the outcomes of 11–16 schools; and

- it is a known qualification that provides a benchmark for other qualifications at Levels 1¹² and 2.

3.4 However, we expect the GCSE to evolve over time (see paragraph 3.30 and chapter 5). Teaching and learning in Key Stage 4 tend to be driven by the GCSE requirements. The statutory requirements typically absorb about 80% of curriculum time. There is general agreement that these requirements are insufficiently flexible to accommodate individual choice, particularly for those who may wish to pursue predominantly vocational options or those who wish to progress more quickly. In Key Stage 4 the current National Curriculum is sometimes seen as a barrier rather than as a valued entitlement for all. Evidence of this is seen in the extent of disapplication.

3.5 Schools can disapply, for any one pupil, up to two National Curriculum subjects in order to:

- provide wider opportunities for work-related learning;
- allow pupils making significantly less progress than their peers to consolidate other learning;
- allow pupils with individual strengths to emphasise a particular curriculum area.

3.6 The monitoring of disapplication in 2000/01 by the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA) suggests that

¹² 5 GCSEs at at least grades D–G; NVQ Level 1 or equivalent

around a third of schools were using the regulations in respect of 5% of pupils nationally. Figures for 2001/02 are expected to be considerably higher. Such figures may in any case understate the use of disapplication.

3.7 The disapplication arrangements are not satisfactory. They are complicated and poorly understood by schools and parents. The language of disapplication is negative, and, despite their intention, the arrangements are widely perceived as remedial, and so undermine attempts to establish vocational provision as a high-quality option for a wide spectrum of pupils. Schools most commonly use disapplication to provide for an extended period of work-related learning, followed by consolidating learning across the curriculum. In terms of the pupils affected, the largest number benefit from the arrangement allowing schools to emphasise a particular curriculum area. The subject most frequently disapplied is modern foreign languages, followed by design and technology, with science being disapplied in a very small number of cases.

A NEW, FLEXIBLE 14–16 CURRICULUM

3.8 The route to higher standards means building on the success of the Key Stage 3 strategy and providing greater flexibility in Key Stage 4. As we said in the White Paper *Schools achieving success*, in order to increase choice for young people from the age of 14, it is necessary to create greater space in Key Stage 4 of the National Curriculum. Our proposals are designed to ensure rising standards of

attainment among young people who are better prepared to contribute to a fair society and a productive economy. We aim to ensure that there is sufficient flexibility to allow students to pursue their talents and aspirations while maintaining a strong focus on the basics. We do not propose to change the statutory minimum school leaving age. We will use the framework of the National Curriculum to ensure that essential learning is protected until age 16. A core of subjects will therefore remain compulsory. However, we now propose a radical way forward and we want to hear the views of others on where the balance should lie.

3.9 The new 14–16 requirements should have a clear and transparent rationale. Subjects should be mandatory at this stage only if they meet one of two overlapping criteria:

- they provide an essential basis for progression, across all areas of learning and for keeping young people's options open; or
- they are essential for personal development, contributing to young people's spiritual, cultural, social and moral development as they begin to take their place in society and in the world of work.

3.10 Within this rationale, mathematics, English, science and ICT meet the first criterion of being essential for progression. These subjects would remain as statutory requirements. In mathematics and English there would be an expectation that the

breadth and depth of content should be no less than at present. For many pupils this would also be the case for science. Most pupils would continue to sit GCSEs in mathematics, English and science (a single or double award in balanced science). We would expect pupils to continue to use ICT in many subjects and to take a qualification in it.

3.11 We considered the position of science very carefully. It is at present one of the subjects which may be disapplied at Key Stage 4 to allow wider opportunities for work-related learning; in 2000/01 this was the case for some 2000 pupils. On the other hand science is a core subject in Key Stages 1, 2 and 3, along with mathematics and English; it is important for our economy; and careers in many areas increasingly need an underpinning of science. Over 80% of pupils now follow a course leading to a double award GCSE which provides a secure base for progression to more advanced study in a range of science subjects. In the light of those considerations we have retained science in the core of compulsory subjects. Our proposals should permit sufficient flexibility in the Key Stage 4 curriculum to enable the relatively small number of pupils for whom science is currently disapplied still to undertake work-related learning. We recognise the need to ensure that science GCSEs provide a range of choices relevant to all abilities and aptitudes. The double award will remain the preferred option for many. An additional GCSE in applied science, one of the eight new GCSEs in vocational subjects, will be introduced in September

2002. QCA is to pilot from 2003 an innovative and flexible structure for GCSE science. This will engage pupils with contemporary scientific issues and focus on their role as users and consumers of science. The National Curriculum programme of study for science will be reviewed and updated, to achieve a core of science relevant to all learners. This smaller programme of study could be built into a wider range of qualifications.

3.12 Citizenship is to become statutory within the National Curriculum from September 2002. Religious education, careers education, sex education, and PE are all within the National Curriculum or otherwise required. All are essential for personal development. We are committed to 2 hours of high-quality PE and sport each week provided in and out of school for all up to age 16. We propose that in PE there should be an emphasis on physical fitness, health and well-being during the 14–19 stage. An effective programme of personal, social and health education (PSHE) often provides the framework for some of these areas, and is particularly important in equipping young people, especially the more vulnerable ones, to maintain their engagement in learning.

3.13 In addition we think it is essential for progression and for personal development that all young people should undertake some work-related learning. Such learning should be designed to develop pupils' employability and to help prepare them for working life. It involves gaining experience of work, working practices and environments, developing skills for

working life and learning through activities and challenges set in work-related contexts. We should also like young people to have opportunities to develop their enterprise capability, enabling them to handle uncertainty, and make reasonable risk/reward assessments and act upon them. Research is under way into effective ways of doing this.

3.14 Work-related learning can be delivered in a variety of ways. These include not only direct experience through work and community placements and, indeed, part-time jobs, but also learning about the world of work through vocational courses and enterprise activity in schools. For some students, work-related learning will be built into their subject learning, citizenship and PSHE, supplemented by careers education and work experience. For others it will be provided largely through a course leading to a vocational qualification for which there will now be space in the curriculum. Some students will follow an extended work-related learning programme with an FE college, training provider or employer.

3.15 The learning essential for personal development (listed in the paragraphs above) will provide a sound basis for young people's participation and progress in a range of wider activities that young people will pursue throughout the 14–19 phase. These could be recognised in the new Matriculation Diploma we propose in chapter 4. But we make no presumption that learning and experience in these areas should lead to formal examinations or qualifications. Much of the content of the

subjects – particularly citizenship, careers education and work-related learning – can be taught across a number of subject areas and we would not expect them to take up more curriculum time than they do now.

3.16 Currently all pupils must study modern foreign languages and design and technology at Key Stage 4, unless their schools have used the disapplication procedures. We believe this is too constraining. For some students it is demotivating in the short term and has consequences for their eventual achievement of qualifications. At the same time we are determined to preserve access to a broad and balanced curriculum for all. We therefore intend to introduce a new statutory entitlement to access that would require schools to make these subject areas available to any pupil wishing to study them. We also propose that there should be the same entitlement to a subject in the humanities and a subject in the arts. Pupils would not be statutorily obliged to study these subjects, but schools would be obliged to make them available.

3.17 We would expect all schools to make modern foreign languages, design and technology, the arts and the humanities available, but how schools provide such entitlement to access in these subjects is a matter for local decision. They can, for example, provide access in collaboration with others, and Curriculum Online will provide resources to support teachers and learning. Although the majority of schools will no doubt continue to prepare students for GCSE, others will look to alternative qualifications.



**16–19 collaboration
Beaumont, Sandringham and
Verulam Schools with Oaklands
FE College, St Albans**

These collaborative arrangements provide post-16 students with a wide range of subjects to choose from: vocational qualifications in

art and design, health and social care, recreation and leisure and business are available at advanced and intermediate levels.

They also ensure that minority subjects including German, music, music technology, government and politics, further mathematics, Spanish, food technology and physical education are available to all and that students' aspirations can be met. Currently almost half the students take at least one subject in another institution. Achievement and retention rates are high and are consistently above the national average.

Students value the opportunities which the collaborative arrangements offer and are clear about the benefits. As one said:

"By going to another school in our consortium I was able to fit in all four of the subjects that I wanted without any timetable clashes. It gave me the chance to experience a different learning environment. The teaching is different and works well for me. I have also enjoyed mixing with new people, staff and students, and so the arrangements have social as well as academic benefits."

3.18 Design and technology develops a range of creative, practical and applied skills that contribute to adult and working life. From its craft base it has moved forward significantly in recent years, enabling pupils to experience modern industrial practice at first hand. Over £1 million has been invested in training teachers in CAD/CAM, following its introduction in the 2000 revised National Curriculum. Teacher and curriculum development projects in, for example, textiles software, primary food technology, 'future' design and electronics, will, over time, provide more opportunities for teachers to update their skills. Science and Engineering Ambassadors from industry will offer their own expertise to teachers in support of the curriculum and out of school activities.

3.19 Design and technology is studied by all pupils from the age of 5 and has a range of sub-disciplines at Key Stage 4 leading to a variety of GCSEs, but for many pupils it is not seen as central to their programmes. Disapplication provisions are used for more than 23,000 pupils. We recognise that in around 20% of schools the quality of resources and accommodation are issues affecting the teaching of design and technology, and we will be looking to see how schools and LEAs can be encouraged to address these needs as a priority. We also recognise that new technologies have made considerable demands on design and technology teachers, and we encourage schools to enable them to update their skills. As increased numbers of pupils opt for more substantial work-related learning programmes from the age

of 14, we want to see the creative and practical skills fostered by design and technology playing a key role. But we do not think that design and technology should be required study for all pupils.

3.20 The teaching of modern foreign languages needs to reflect the reality of the world in which we live. Our position at the heart of Europe places a particular emphasis on a number of European languages, but our global and cultural links extend much wider. Over 300 languages are in use in London alone, making it one of the most linguistically diverse cities in the world. The ability to understand and communicate in other languages contributes to community cohesion and educational inclusion, two of our key goals. We have not in the past taught languages as successfully as many other countries. A Level entries in both French and German have declined steadily since 1991/92.

3.21 We need to ensure that children, young people and adults all have opportunities to study languages and are motivated to do so. It is widely agreed that primary-aged children should have greater opportunities than at present to learn languages. The scale of disapplication from modern foreign languages at Key Stage 4 (36,000 pupils) shows that, for some young people aged 14–16, language learning presents serious problems; such young people will be able to take advantage of the additional flexibility we now propose for Key Stage 4 to choose from a wider range of options. But it is essential that more children should start language learning earlier than Year 7 and we also

need to find ways of enabling and encouraging adults to start or re-start learning a language if we are to participate successfully in the global economy.

3.22 We want to develop a new approach to the teaching of modern foreign languages. We are publishing alongside this Green Paper our outline plans for improving opportunities for young people, especially primary-aged children, to learn languages, both in and out of school. This will lead to our producing a national languages strategy in the autumn. Our long-term goal, subject to resources, is that every primary-aged pupil should have the opportunity to learn a foreign language. The Key Stage 3 strategy, with its dedicated strand of work on improving standards in modern foreign languages, will support the drive to motivate young people to continue to acquire language skills. At Key Stage 4, all young people will be entitled to be taught modern foreign languages. The move to an entitlement will reflect the reality of large-scale disapplication in schools and should help us to focus on languages at Key Stage 3 and, in the longer term, at Key Stage 2. Creating more space at Key Stage 4 will also make it easier for those who so wish to study more than one language.

3.23 This repositioning of these National Curriculum subjects is a radical proposal and is likely to attract arguments from those with firmly-held views about the imperative for particular subjects to be taught to all pupils in this age group. But it will not be possible to offer young people more customised, and to them more

relevant, programmes from 14 in a more coherent 14–19 phase if we do not create sufficient space in the curriculum. The movement of some subjects from a requirement to an entitlement to access will make curriculum time available for those whose programmes need it, while ensuring that the subjects remain available for the majority who are likely to continue to want them. The increased flexibility in Key Stage 4 is a major contribution to our deregulation drive. It reflects our trust in the capacity of schools, working together and with FE providers, to offer a broad and balanced experience to young people aged 14–19. The current curriculum typically absorbs about 80% of pupils' school day but its minimum requirements could be delivered in 60%. We think that the compulsory elements within the revised curriculum we propose could be delivered in about 50% of pupils' time, so creating significant space for greatly increased choice by pupils and schools.

3.24 A direct consequence of redefining the curriculum as we propose is that the disapplication arrangements should become redundant and disappear. However, the necessary changes cannot be introduced to take effect until September 2004. Meanwhile we intend to amend and simplify the current disapplication arrangements. New guidance would make clear that disapplication need not be considered exceptional. Later we will align the disapplication regulations with the proposed statutory curriculum changes. This will mean that disapplication of science is no longer possible; we have referred to the implications of this in paragraph 3.11.



Collaboration between Leek College and Meadows Special School

The employment opportunities for young people with Moderate Learning Difficulties have greatly improved as a result of collaboration between Leek College and Meadows Special School.

The Honeycomb Project provides a unique opportunity for the students to develop employment skills. It offers them not only craft and vocationally based opportunities but also the chance for social and emotional development. The heart of the project is a furniture recycling and wood manufacturing business. Pupils experience a real work environment in which they are making a full contribution to the business.

College-based links support Meadows' pupils in extending their social and work based skills. This provision includes hair and beauty/self-presentation, art, use of the College multi-gym and a wide range of ICT activities. Pupils can gain ICT certification and accredited vocational qualifications. Subject specialists at the college and school staff teach the pupils as part of a team-teaching arrangement.



3.25 We do not intend to change the existing arrangements for disapplication through statements of special educational need. However, the proposals for freeing up Key Stage 4 may result in a reduced need for wholesale disapplication of the provisions for those pupils with special educational needs for whom this is the case at present. ICT provides a valuable tool to enable effective access to the curriculum for many such pupils.

Vocational options for young people with special educational needs must be of good quality, and not detract from the provision of a broad curriculum and the acquisition of any necessary basic skills.

3.26 The more we treat the 14–19 period as a single phase, the greater the scope for students to move at a pace best suited to their abilities and preferred ways of learning. Students and their advisers will be able to plan on the basis of a four-year rather than a two-year programme of learning. This will offer them both greater flexibility and greater coherence between the various elements of their individual programmes. Not everything they regard as important for their personal development needs to be completed before the age of 16. For example, students who begin to study a modern foreign language or design and technology before 16 need not complete the relevant qualification by 16, particularly if their 14–16 studies also include a large work-related element.

3.27 These changes to the curriculum and disapplication arrangements, and the development of planning and guidance

support at the end of Key Stage 3, would together pave the way for the introduction of real choice for young people between distinct learning pathways from age 14. GCSEs and equivalent qualifications would continue to provide an important progress check at age 16, with choices from age 16 leading to further qualifications and achievements recognised at the age of 19 by the new Matriculation Diploma proposed in chapter 4.

DEVELOPING THE VOCATIONAL OPTIONS

3.28 Many young people will continue as now with predominantly general programmes. But increasingly we would expect others to extend the work-related element of their programme – beyond the minimum core we are suggesting for all – to pursue genuinely mixed programmes of study. The involvement of employers, including small and medium-sized enterprises, will be crucial. Too often in the past work-related learning has been seen as an inferior alternative to general study and appropriate only for less able pupils. High-quality and well-respected courses and qualifications should become attractive to the full spectrum of ability, including many young people who aspire to entry to higher education. For those who so wish, it will also be possible to pursue predominantly vocational programmes which provide a sound basis for progression to a Modern Apprenticeship at age 16 or to further vocational study after 16. Those with physical disabilities and sensory impairments must have access to vocational opportunities. In all cases

we want to be sure that programmes are sufficient to ensure a broad-based education and that choices made at 14 are not so narrow as to restrict the ability to change direction at age 16 or beyond.

3.29 The first new GCSEs in vocational subjects are to be available from September 2002 in some schools. We expect they will be far more widely available from September 2003. These new GCSEs will initially be available in Applied Art and Design; Applied Business; Engineering; Health and Social Care; Applied ICT; Leisure and Tourism; Manufacturing; and Applied Science. Each will be a double award, equivalent to two GCSEs. As these take hold, and subject to resources, we would like to extend the range of areas in which subjects are available to reflect the greater range of subjects offered at Vocational A Level. We would like the first of those additional titles to be available for teaching from September 2004. We also hope to meet the needs of a larger range of pupils by considering the case for some new GCSEs in vocational subjects equivalent in weight to existing single subject titles.

3.30 In the longer term parity of esteem between the general, mixed and vocational pathways could be enhanced through the redesign of existing GCSEs. New hybrid qualifications could be produced that, through the use of a common core and optional general or vocational units, allow single specifications for general, mixed or largely vocational options. Such qualifications would maximise students' access to a range of

different progression routes and help to bridge the gap between the general and vocational options. The content of each qualification could be signalled through the qualification title so, for example, within the geography-related areas of study, the qualifications might be: general – *geography*; a mixed general and vocational – *geography: land and environment*; and a vocational option – *leisure and tourism*.

3.31 We also believe choice and parity of esteem would be better served by no longer attaching labels to signal that GCSEs are general or vocational, and instead simply naming them all GCSEs. At present the two types of GCSE sit in different parts of the national qualifications framework and have different criteria. We will ask the QCA to advise how and when we can move to a more simple approach which preserves the robustness and high standard of the qualifications, but in which both sorts can be referred to simply as GCSEs.

3.32 In January 2001 the then Secretary of State announced proposals for 14–16 year olds to study at a college or with a training provider for one or two days a week throughout Key Stage 4 and to work towards worthwhile qualifications. £38 million has been made available in 2002–04 to support the introduction of new GCSEs in vocational subjects in September 2002 and the creation of part-time vocational placements in colleges for 14–16 year olds. General FE colleges have been invited to form partnerships with schools, training providers and other



14–19 Collaboration Tamar Valley Consortium

Tamar Valley Consortium is a partnership in the Plymouth area between schools, colleges, training providers and employers which enables 14–19 year olds to follow a wide range of accredited vocational courses.

All students follow NVQs or units towards them. Typically they spend two days a week with a training provider, two days at school or college and one day with an employer. There is a strong emphasis on Key Skills throughout the delivery of students' programmes, and on students negotiating the components of their individual programmes.

The Consortium now offers vocational courses for 14–16 year olds, taking advantage of the greater flexibilities available at Key Stage 4. In 2001/02, there are 605 post-16 and 149 14–16 year olds registered with the Consortium. It offers 70 different courses.



agents to put these initiatives into effect. Partnerships will benefit from a comprehensive programme of training and support from the Learning and Skills Development Agency. Local LSCs will have a key role to play in monitoring and evaluation and the allocation of funding.

3.33 This emphasis on greater variety for young people from age 14 will pose challenges for institutions and teachers. The reforms we propose are likely to entail a different approach to curriculum planning and timetabling as well as to wider issues such as monitoring attendance and behaviour management. Individual schools will still be able to make subjects outside the core compulsory at Key Stage 4, but we nonetheless expect schools to secure a wider range of options for their pupils than at present, and to include some vocational learning. This may entail collaboration with other institutions. We would expect OFSTED inspections to assess whether the available programmes and courses were meeting the needs of all pupils, while recognising the particular circumstances of some schools such as specialist schools. There will be pressure for even closer working between subject departments; for the development of new partnerships between institutions to meet the student entitlement at 14–16; for the development of new partnerships with employers to support the greater emphasis on work-related learning both within the institution and through work and community placements; and for a greater level of pastoral care for students whose programme of learning takes them outside their home institution (see chapter 6). Individual teachers, whether already in the profession or under

initial training, will need to be equipped (and confident) to teach their subjects to a wider age range, across a potentially greater range of qualifications and through a wider range of teaching styles. Many teachers will need to teach changed specifications in their subjects. We will use evidence from the pathfinders to explore all these potential issues and assess what support might be needed.

3.34 We recognise that the reforms will mean further changes in schools and colleges. For these changes to be introduced successfully we must provide timely and effective support to institutions and teachers. We are committed in the White Paper ***Schools** achieving success* to providing a range of support for partnership working, for professional development, and for reducing administrative burdens on institutions and the individual classroom teacher. We are acting on teacher supply and on teacher workload. We are removing obstacles to collaborative working between institutions (see chapter 8). Most importantly we are not proposing to make these changes immediately or all at once: an illustrative timetable is set out in Appendix 1.

3.35 The proposals in this chapter could have implications both for the frequency of assessment for individuals and for the volume of assessment for institutions. We understand the concerns currently being expressed about these issues by some students and their parents as well as by schools and colleges. However, all qualifications need to be both robust and credible. Independent assessment is an important part of that robustness and

credibility. Our emphasis here on GCSE as a progress check and our suggestion in chapter 5 that students should sit qualifications at a time best suited to their individual needs should both help to reduce assessment pressures. If our proposals for new qualifications are agreed, then we will ask QCA to consider carefully the impact on students when developing the qualifications and their associated assessment regimes.

Q: Do you agree with the rationale for the 14–16 compulsory curriculum set out in paragraph 3.9?

Q: Do you agree that mathematics, English, science and ICT should form the core of the 14–16 curriculum?

Q: Do you agree that the areas set out in paragraphs 3.12–3.14 should also be compulsory at 14–16?

Q: Do you support the proposal for the new statutory entitlement to a subject within modern foreign languages, design and technology, the arts and the humanities set out in paragraphs 3.16–3.23?

Q: Do you support the changes to the disapplication arrangements proposed in paragraph 3.24?

Q: Do you support the extension of vocational options proposed in paragraphs 3.28–3.29?

Q: Do you support the development of hybrid qualifications as proposed in paragraph 3.30?

Q: Do you agree that in future all GCSEs should be called simply that as proposed in paragraph 3.31?

Q: Are there other ways in which you think GCSEs might evolve?

THE 16–19 YEARS IN A MORE COHERENT 14–19 PHASE

3.36 We are still in the initial implementation stage of the Qualifying for Success reforms (Curriculum 2000). The first students will complete their full advanced level programmes next summer. Despite the acknowledged difficulties last summer, we are confident that the reforms are now working well. Many more young people are undertaking larger and more varied programmes of learning than before; 60% of students are studying four or more subjects in their first year of advanced level study, compared with 10% before. We shall be monitoring the extent to which the reforms have led to greater breadth in the subjects studied. The new A Level structure, divided into AS and A2, has proved successful both in encouraging progression to the full A Level and ensuring that those who decide not to continue with a particular subject into the second year are still able to gain a demanding qualification in the AS before changing direction. While some questions still remain around the response of higher education to the reformed qualifications, there are welcome signs that, as the first students with the new qualifications apply for higher education, admissions tutors are beginning to respond positively.

3.37 Curriculum 2000 is therefore providing a sound pathway for many of the 50% of young people who should be aspiring to higher education. It includes also the Advanced Extension Awards (AEAs), which the first students will be sitting in summer 2002. The AEA was introduced to stretch the most able advanced level students by requiring greater depth of understanding than A Level. It will ensure that the most able students in this country are tested against standards comparable with the most demanding to be found in other countries. The AEA was also designed to differentiate between able students who can achieve an A grade at A Level.

3.38 The AEA is a paper taken separately from the main A Level papers, but based on the same body of knowledge. In the eyes of some students and teachers, it may seem to demand additional teaching and adds to their perception of the burden of assessment at A Level. We intend to introduce, as soon as practicable, some more demanding questions into the A2 papers which are taken at the end of A Level courses. In this way, the A Level papers themselves would allow high achievers to demonstrate a greater depth of knowledge, skill and understanding without the need for a separate examination paper. The AEA has just two grades, merit and distinction. With harder questions incorporated into the A2, it would be possible for students to gain an A grade "with distinction" as well as a simple A grade. In order to ensure that A Level standards are maintained over time, the existing grades A to E would continue to be set at their present levels.

3.39 Such a change would produce a simpler and leaner A Level structure. It would also meet concerns that A Level is too easy for some very able students. Unlike the simple addition of an A* grade, as was adopted for GCSE, able students would be challenged by the opportunity to tackle more demanding questions. The introduction of the AEA will help us to make sure that this new approach is tested carefully with schools and colleges. In particular, we will be asking QCA to work with the awarding bodies on the design principles so as to ensure that existing A Level standards are maintained.

3.40 We propose to ask QCA for advice on how this might be taken forward across all A Levels, including those in vocational subjects, with a timescale for development. Meanwhile, the AEA will remain in place in 17 subjects and will provide students with an opportunity to answer demanding questions of the kind which could eventually appear in the strengthened A Levels.

Q: Do you agree that more opportunities should be provided at A Level for the most able students to demonstrate greater depth of understanding?

Q: Do you agree that the existing grade range at A Level should be extended to provide greater differentiation between more able candidates?

Q: Do you agree with the proposal to introduce more demanding questions into A2 papers so as to produce a higher grade at A Level?

3.41 The pathway to higher education is broadened and enhanced by the Vocational Certificate of Education (Vocational A Level). We introduced this to establish clearly the status of vocational learning in schools and colleges alongside the traditional A Level. The same issues arise here as for the GCSE, about the desirability of separate labels. In its recent report on the Qualifying for Success reforms, QCA has advised us that in the longer term the Vocational A Level should follow the AS/A2 model. (This would not add to the assessment burden.) We have asked them to develop that advice. When those changes are effected, we intend to consider dropping the vocational label from this qualification while ensuring that it is still of a robustly high standard.

3.42 We expect that, as the reforms to the Key Stage 4 curriculum are implemented and the new qualifications there are developed and become more widespread, the pattern of qualifications and pathways followed post-16 will become markedly different from the existing patterns for many young people.

3.43 We need to ensure that the changes we make to provide greater choice and opportunity from the age of 14 feed through into coherent and worthwhile programmes continuing from 16 through to 19 for all young people, not just those following A Level programmes. We must aim to give all young people a solid grounding in the key skills that will equip them for future study, personal development and effective competition in the labour markets of the 21st century. It is

essential that as many young people as are able to do so reach an acceptable minimum standard in numeracy, literacy and ICT at Level 2 (a good GCSE or equivalent, including the key skill Level 2). So we propose that there should be an entitlement for all young people to continue until 19 with study of literacy, numeracy and ICT until Level 2 is achieved. Those who do not achieve a good (A*–C) GCSE in these subjects should be supported to gain the corresponding Level 2 key skills qualifications. Last autumn, QCA provided additional guidance and the LSC adjusted the funding tariff to enable more flexible use of these qualifications, tailored to individual needs.

3.44 To ensure that all 16 year olds can pursue an adequately broad and coherent programme will require some further changes beyond those already in place under Curriculum 2000 and in progress for Modern Apprenticeships. Nearly a quarter of 16 year olds choose to study for occupationally-specific qualifications. Many young people are motivated by occupational components in their learning programmes, and we hope that in future more of these young people will take up Modern Apprenticeships. QCA has recently provided advice on the content of LSC-funded programmes of vocational study and mixed programmes of vocational and general study. The aim of the advice is to ensure that young people, including those choosing occupationally-specific qualifications, do not undertake programmes that are too narrow, are of insufficient volume to provide for further progression, or offer inadequate currency

with employers. In the past too many young people have followed programmes that have proved unsatisfactory and which they have failed to complete. The advice suggests that a framework supported by examples of what its application might mean in practice for individual programmes is likely to be the most effective way of achieving what is needed. The framework will be made widely available to colleges and providers, and to those advising young people. We shall be asking the LSC to take account of it in its funding arrangements.

MODERN APPRENTICESHIPS

3.45 Our nation's long and respected tradition of apprenticeship all but disappeared in the 1980s. That was a disgrace and denied industry the skills it needed and thousands of young people a worthwhile qualification. We are now building apprenticeships up again to meet the skill needs of today. The new generation of Modern Apprenticeships, which we announced at the end of November 2001, is an important component of the 14–19 phase. These new apprenticeships are available to both women and men, and cover all sectors of the economy.

3.46 Modern Apprenticeships will play a critical role in helping many young people with a wide range of abilities and aspirations to make the transition to working life and to make progress towards their chosen profession. For young people who leave school at 16 and who can best pursue their qualifications in the workplace, they offer a high-quality

pathway. They also offer a way into the labour market for young people with good qualifications from school or college who can acquire practical skills and experience while earning a wage.

3.47 The new Modern Apprenticeships are intended to meet high standards, endorsed by employers' organisations. A National Vocational Qualification will attest their job-specific skills in the workplace. This will be complemented by key skills qualifications and a technical certificate which reflects broader knowledge and understanding acquired through off-the-job learning. Technical certificates within Advanced Modern Apprenticeships will strengthen the prospect of progression to higher education for the more able trainees. Young people with disabilities have successfully undertaken Modern Apprenticeships and we will ensure that they continue to be able to do so.

3.48 We are implementing the main recommendations of the Modern Apprenticeship Advisory Committee, chaired by Sir John Cassels.¹³ The Advisory Committee's report recommends that we do more to ensure that all Modern Apprenticeships meet the highest standards and to encourage take-up by employers and young people. We have therefore announced that, working with the LSC, we will:

- ensure that employer places are increased so that over a quarter of young

¹³ *Modern Apprenticeships: The Way to Work*

people enter Modern Apprenticeships before they are 22 years old, by 2004/05;

- introduce from September 2004 an entitlement to a Modern Apprenticeship place for 16 or 17 year olds who have five GCSE passes, including mathematics and English. The entitlement will also apply to those without such GCSEs but who are endorsed as suitable following Entry to Employment provision (see below) and who have acquired the necessary basic skills;
- establish a national framework for apprenticeships which defines basic standards and strengthens the relationship between the employer and apprentice. The national framework will include an apprenticeship agreement between the employer and the apprentice, and a standard period of probation. It will also establish minimum durations, with an accelerated option of Advanced Modern Apprenticeship for those aged 18 and over who have already acquired the necessary key skills;
- launch a sustained three-year marketing campaign to promote Modern Apprenticeships;
- introduce a 'programme-led' option that will allow some young people to acquire the technical certificate and key skills in an institutional setting, before they sign an apprenticeship agreement with an identified employer and undertake the on-the-job training;

- introduce a new programme of high-quality learning, called Entry to Employment, for those young people who are not yet ready to enter Modern Apprenticeships or other employment. Entry to Employment will respond flexibly to individual needs, offering a range of provision, including basic skills training.

We and the LSC will publish shortly an implementation plan setting out how we will take forward these and other recommendations over the next three years.

WIDER ACTIVITIES

3.49 In 1999 the Department for Education and Employment established an Advisory Group for Citizenship for 16–19 year olds in education and training, chaired by Sir Bernard Crick. It considered how the aims of citizenship programmes for pupils in full-time compulsory schooling might be built on post-16. (The study of Citizenship is not compulsory for 16–19 year olds.) Post-16 Citizenship should enable young adults to exercise social responsibility and extend their political effectiveness by active participation in their education and training environment and their communities. The Learning and Skills Development Agency has been asked to establish a development programme to stimulate thinking and develop best practice. Since 2001 eleven projects involving sixth forms, colleges, training providers and voluntary and community groups have been testing a variety of approaches to active citizenship development.

Modern Apprenticeships

Claire

Claire was planning a two-year GNVQ course in IT at Newcastle College when she heard about a job with training on a Modern Apprenticeship at the University of Northumbria at Newcastle.

Now she is working towards a permanent technician's job in the University's IT Support Department even though her three-year apprenticeship in IT and Electronic Services: Installation and Support does not officially finish until this April. By then she will have achieved 2 NVQs, one at Level 2 and the second at Level 3, along with two Level 2 Key Skills in Application of Number and Communication. She is already considering further qualifications and possibly a part-time degree course.

"All I'd heard about MAs was that you get paid only £30 a week to do not very good jobs. But when I looked at this one it sounded really good. It offered the same qualification as I would get at College, plus three years' work experience which employers always ask for, and the pay wasn't low".

3.50 Enrichment activities pursued by young people outside the formal curriculum make a critical contribution both to personal development and to the acquisition of a number of other skills, including the wider key skills. The benefits are welcomed by both employers and higher education. It is important that all young people should be encouraged not only to become active citizens – including through volunteering – but also to engage in wider interests such as sports, music and arts. There are also important benefits from experience of work – through work-related learning or some part-time employment. Participation in all three of these wider areas – active citizenship, wider interests and work-related learning – may form an important part of the new Matriculation Diploma proposed in chapter 4. While some of these activities can be undertaken within the learning day – and indeed many are now – much of the benefit that we seek can be secured too from activity outside school or college and entirely beyond the curriculum.

3.51 As in the 14–16 stage these developments have implications for institutions and providers, teachers and lecturers. We will seek to minimise issues of teacher supply and workload arising from our proposals and will remove barriers to institutional collaboration. There are potential implications for the supply and funding of the range of wider activities in which we want all young people to participate. We propose to test out carefully any changes that are agreed and to ensure that full implementation is managed over a reasonable timescale.

We would not plan full implementation before September 2005.

Q: Do you agree with the proposal to relabel vocational A Levels in paragraph 3.41?

Q: Do you agree that all young people aged 16–19 should be entitled to continue studying literacy, numeracy and ICT until they have reached Level 2 (paragraph 3.43)?

Q: Do you support the framework proposed in paragraph 3.44?

Q: Do you agree that we should expect all young people to participate in active citizenship, wider interests and work-related learning (paragraphs 3.49–3.50)?

NATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORK

3.52 The National Qualifications Framework developed by QCA under the 1997 Education Act is intended, among other things, to provide a guide for students, employers, parents, teachers and institutions in understanding and making choices about particular qualifications and progression routes. In the light of the changes to qualifications described in this chapter, we intend to invite QCA to review the structure and criteria underpinning the framework to ensure that it continues to provide a rational and transparent guide for all users. As the framework applies to Wales and Northern Ireland as well as to England, QCA will work closely with the other regulatory bodies in developing proposals.



Chapter 4

Recognising achievement – a new award

Summary: To inspire and motivate all young people to stay in learning beyond 16, a new overarching award could mark the completion of the 14–19 phase. Based around existing qualifications, it would offer all learners a common, challenging goal.

The award would be built around achievements in literacy, numeracy and ICT to at least Level 2 (the equivalent of five good GCSEs); recognise all main qualifications in academic and vocational subjects; and might also cover participation in wider activities.

We wish to consult on the precise form of the award and then to test it in practice. We believe there is merit in an award that recognises and motivates young people towards three levels of achievement:

- an Intermediate award, reflecting the usual entry level for employment;
- an Advanced award, reflecting the general threshold level for higher education;
- a Higher award, rewarding greater achievement at advanced level and reflecting a common entry level for high-ranking universities.

A simpler alternative might be to provide all young people with a Certificate consolidating all their achievements and undifferentiated by level.

4.1 The White Paper *Schools achieving success* suggested that an overarching award should be developed to recognise the achievement of young people between the ages of 14 and 19. We now set out our proposals in detail.

REASONS FOR A NEW AWARD

4.2 At present attainment at 19 is recognised in terms only of individual qualifications. A consequence is that many young people pursue a relatively narrow programme of study, that activities and achievement beyond formal qualifications

are undervalued, and that old and unwarranted prejudices about academic and vocational learning are sustained. We propose that a new overarching award should be introduced to stimulate greater breadth and coherence for all learners to mark the completion of the 14–19 phase and to recognise substantial and worthwhile achievement. As a key goal for the 14–19 phase it should motivate a greater proportion of young people to remain in education and training until 19.

4.3 The title of the award is important. It should signify the status intended for the

award, and must remain relevant and appropriate over time. It must gain the respect and commitment of users of the award and particularly of young people themselves. We suggest that the award be called “the Matriculation Diploma” but would be open to alternative suggestions.

4.4 The Matriculation Diploma would not itself be a separate qualification, but would recognise significant levels of achievement in a range of different areas of learning and development. It would offer a means of recognising that genuine learning can take place in a variety of ways – including general and academic programmes, mixed vocational and general study, vocational study at school and college, and achievements in Modern Apprenticeships in a work-based programme. We are determined that we neither over-burden young people and teachers nor undermine confidence in our curriculum and qualifications framework. So all the options we suggest for the new award are based around existing qualifications and would not require any additional examinations.

4.5 The value of the award would be in raising the aspirations and attainment of young people and helping bring coherence to the 14–19 phase. It will also help them to be better prepared for adult and working life and further learning. It could also be helpful to employers and higher education in recruitment and selection. To be fully successful it must gain their confidence and support, though they will want to be satisfied about specific achievements within the award.

4.6 More specifically the Diploma should make a valuable contribution to:

- raising standards of achievement at age 19 by motivating more young people to stay in learning and providing something for them to aim for;
- widening the horizons of young people beyond the individual qualifications they might take;
- pointing the way towards greater coherence within the programmes young people pursue;
- promoting parity of esteem between vocational and academic programmes of study;
- encouraging the development of the ‘whole person’;
- conveying valuable information to employers and higher education.

DESIGN PRINCIPLES

4.7 The content and structure of the award should reflect clear design principles. It should:

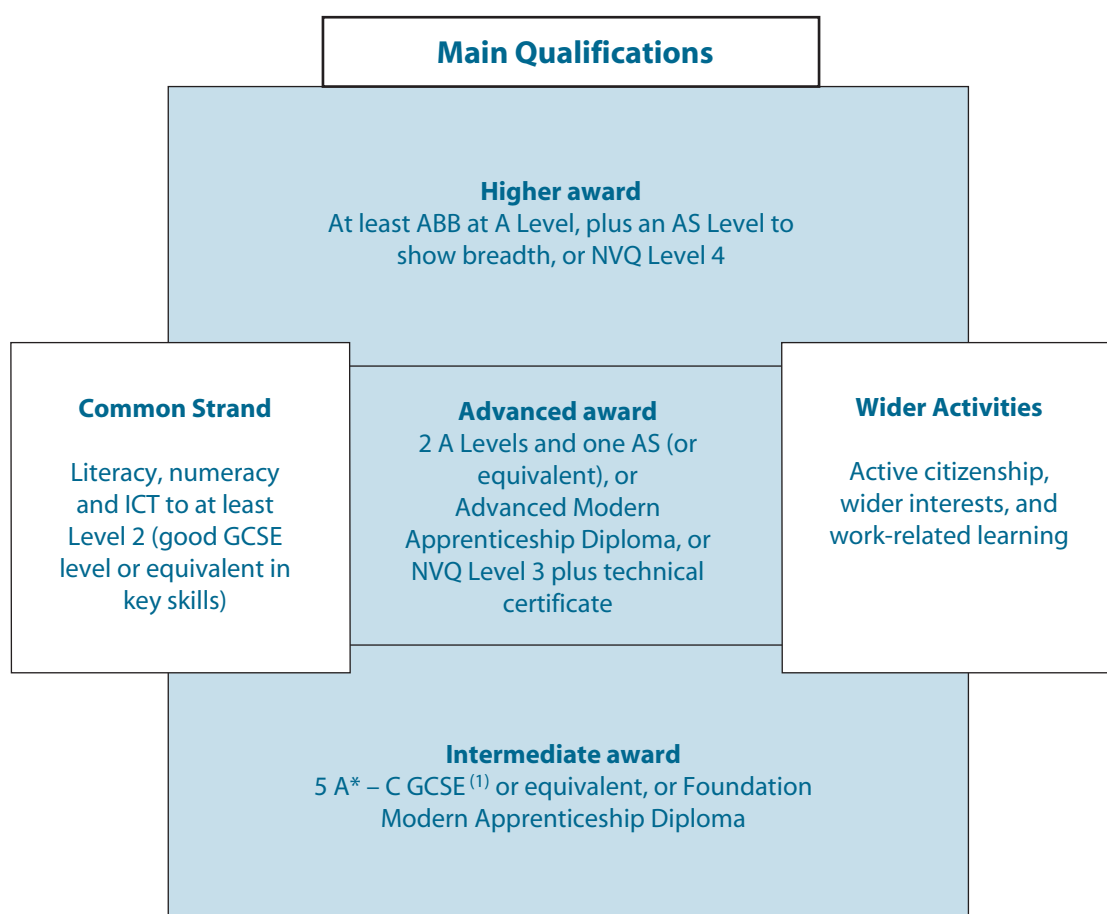
- support progression;
- require the achievement of qualifications;
- encourage breadth of learning;
- motivate young people;

- promote personal development; and
- offer currency with users.

CONTENT AND STRUCTURE

4.8 We believe there is merit in an award that recognises and motivates young people towards three levels of achievement. But we wish to consult on the precise form of the award, and then to test it in practice. To prompt discussion we think it is helpful to offer both an outline model for such a Diploma, and an alternative proposition for a simple Certificate. The model for the Diploma is built around three main components, set out in the diagram below:

4.9 The structure of the award embraces students with special educational needs. Some young people with special educational needs will be able to achieve the Diploma at different levels along with their peers, although some may need more time to do so. Some young people, including some who have learning difficulties, will not be able to reach the proposed threshold for an Intermediate award, but their achievements need to be recognised and valued. It would affect the perceptions and currency of the award if it were to be available at levels below the proposed Intermediate level. However, progress should be recognised, particularly for those who make a sustained effort but



⁽¹⁾ qualifications gained in the common strand of literacy, numeracy and ICT should be able to count towards the main qualifications thresholds

do not quite fulfil all the requirements of the award, or who may never reach the standard. We propose therefore that those who do not achieve the award at any level by age 19, but who have remained in learning, should be given a record of progress setting out their achievements. These would be prepared locally and could be presented at the same time as others receive their full awards.

THE THREE MAIN COMPONENTS:

Main qualifications strand

4.10 We suggest that the Diploma be available at three levels: Intermediate; Advanced; and Higher. The Intermediate award would be at Level 2 (five or more good GCSEs or equivalent)¹⁴; the Advanced at Level 3 (two A Levels or equivalent)¹⁵; and the Higher would recognise greater achievement (very good and contrasting A Levels, or NVQ level 4). Each level would be attainable through general or vocational qualifications, and from school-, college- or work-based pathways. The levels will allow employers and higher education institutions to see readily what a young person has achieved. The Intermediate award will provide a useful indication of readiness for employment, the Advanced would reflect the usual entry level for higher education, and the Higher would reflect potential for excellent achievement in higher education. All of them include a guarantee of achievement in English, mathematics and ICT, and may also cover wider skills.

¹⁴ 5 or more GCSEs at A*–C; an intermediate GNVQ, NVQ Level 2 or other equivalent qualification

¹⁵ 2 or more GCE A levels, an advanced GNVQ, NVQ Level 3 or other equivalent qualification

4.11 We need to consider the position of general studies A /AS Levels in the Advanced and Higher awards, and would welcome views.

Common strand

4.12 The purpose of the common strand of the award is to highlight the particular importance of attainment in literacy, numeracy and ICT. We propose that the threshold should be at Level 2 for all young people, through the GSCE qualifications of English, mathematics and ICT (or equivalents) or through key skills qualifications in communication, application of number or IT.

Wider activities strand

4.13 Many schools and colleges have asked that young people's achievements outside the formal curriculum be recognised. We want to include wider activities within the award in order to promote and recognise the development of skills necessary for employment, such as leadership, team-working and problem-solving, and activities which encourage young people to live richer, fuller lives and play a part in the community. We therefore propose to recognise active citizenship; wider interests; and work-related learning. Young people could be required to show some worthwhile and sustained participation in each strand between the ages of 14 and 19 to get the Diploma.

4.14 We recognise that there is a tension between, on the one hand, the need for the assessment of young people's participation in these wider activities to be robust and meaningful and, on the other, the potential additional bureaucracy and burden on teachers and others. Those who successfully completed schemes such as Millennium Volunteers, ASDAN, and the Duke of Edinburgh's Award could be considered to have met automatically the requirements for active citizenship and the pursuit of wider interests. But these schemes would not cover every young person's worthwhile activity; nor do they in most cases extend to the recognition of work-related learning. We therefore would welcome views on whether wider activities should be required to achieve the award, and, if so, how they should be recognised.

THE FORM OF THE DIPLOMA

4.15 The Matriculation Diploma would comprise a national diploma with a transcript of qualifications, grades, and, if included, the wider activities undertaken. The Diploma should be a document that young people would be proud to receive.

AN ALTERNATIVE – A CERTIFICATE OF ACHIEVEMENT

4.16 An alternative to the award might be to provide all young people with a Certificate at age 19 that consolidated all their attainment in both academic and vocational qualifications. It could also include recognition of participation in wider activities. The Certificate itself would be a common leaving document for all

young people in the same form irrespective of whether they had studied academic or vocational options. The advantage of such an approach would be its simplicity, and it would also serve to raise young people's aspirations, though it would not, of course, differentiate by level.

THE AGE AT WHICH THE AWARD SHOULD BE MADE

4.17 The overarching award is intended to signify the end of a 14–19 learning phase, so we propose that the Matriculation Diploma or Certificate should normally be awarded to students at the age of 18/19. Many young people will be able to pass qualifications thresholds in the Diploma much earlier. But we would expect some of the learning – particularly within the wider activities if they are included – to be sustained throughout the phase. Those who meet the requirement for the Advanced Diploma before they are 18/19 might be encouraged to work towards the Higher award.

THE INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE

4.18 We have looked carefully at arrangements in other countries, at the International Baccalaureate and at the developments in Wales, where a new Welsh Baccalaureate is to be piloted. The International Baccalaureate in particular recognises within a single qualification learning and attainment across a range of subjects and includes a requirement for a study of the theory of knowledge. It meets many of the criteria we are proposing for the award. We know that some schools

offer the International Baccalaureate and we welcome this as part of the drive to offer a diverse range of options to young people. However, the International Baccalaureate was not designed to meet the needs of a high proportion of young people, nor could it be introduced without significant further upheaval. But we recognise the value of critical thinking and theory of knowledge and will develop a new A Level to ensure that it can be studied and recognised within our proposed Matriculation Diploma.

Q: Do you agree that there should be a new overarching award to recognise achievement by age 19 (paragraph 4.2)?

Q: Do you prefer the model for the award outlined in paragraphs 4.8–4.15 or for a Certificate as outlined in paragraph 4.16?

Q: What do you think the award should be called (paragraph 4.3)?

Q: Do you agree with a structure for the award that includes a common strand and main qualifications (paragraph 4.8)?

Q: Do you agree that there should be a record of progress for those who do not gain the intermediate award (paragraph 4.9)?

Q: Do you agree with our proposal that the award should have three different levels (paragraph 4.10)?

Q: Do you agree with our proposals for main qualifications thresholds for the Intermediate, Advanced and Higher awards (paragraph 4.10 and diagram 1)?

Q: Should general studies A/AS Levels count towards the thresholds for the Advanced and Higher awards (paragraph 4.11)?

Q: Do you agree that the award should have a common strand of attainment at Level 2 in literacy, numeracy and ICT (paragraph 4.12)?

Q: Do you think wider activities should be required for the achievement of the award (paragraph 4.13)?

Q: How do you think the wider activities could be assessed (paragraph 4.14)?



Chapter 5

Pace and progression

Summary: Young people should be able to develop at a pace consistent with their abilities, whether faster or slower. Those going faster might skip some examinations or take them early and use the time gained to study some subjects in greater depth or to start new ones. Those progressing more slowly might take GCSEs (or equivalent) later than age 16.

5.1 Young people should be able to develop at a pace consistent with their abilities. There is already a variety of good practice consistent with this principle, but it needs to be both wider in scope and more widespread in practice. We will build on current best practice to create a more flexible system able to ensure that pupils are properly stretched to their potential and can make the best use of the 14–19 phase.

ACCELERATION

5.2 As the benefits of the Key Stage 3 strategy progressively improve teaching and learning for 11–14 year olds, it may open possibilities to progress through Key Stage 3 in two years for the more able pupils. This would mean some pupils starting 14–19 programmes from age 13 or even earlier.

5.3 Some schools already arrange ‘fast-track’ sets. It is not uncommon for schools to prepare students to sit GCSEs in mathematics or some modern foreign languages early. In addition all Excellence in Cities partnerships and Excellence

Clusters have targets for early entry to GCSE, to cover the most able 5%–10% of their pupils. World Class tests in mathematics and problem-solving are now available for pupils aged up to 9 and 13. Pupils take the tests when they are ready, rather than at a specific age. QCA and its partners are developing a range of teaching and assessment resources around the tests. The first group of young people will sit the AEA, designed to stretch the most able Advanced level students, in summer 2002 (see paragraph 3.37).

5.4 In extending best practice more generally we suggest:

- differential rates of progression should operate for groups of pupils who are able to maintain a faster pace of learning, with deeper understanding. There should be scope for individual programmes for the most gifted and talented young people;
- arrangements should allow for accelerated learning in a range of subjects;



Accelerated Learning
Admiral Lord Nelson, Portsmouth
(Secondary Community School, mixed)

The Admiral Lord Nelson School, Portsmouth, is operating acceleration programmes in all subjects. Between 25% and 50% of the school's 1,000 pupils will participate. The science and English departments intend to accelerate 50–75% of students.

Individual pupils are assessed on their National Curriculum levels on entry to the school and those achieving Level 5 or better complete Key Stage 3 in most subjects in two years. National Curriculum tests are taken in Year 8 if dispensation is granted and students will start their GCSE studies in Year 9.

Most GCSEs will be taken in Year 10. The Headteacher says this frees Year 11 for "more independent learning, more distance learning, more vocational qualifications, more courses linked to the college – a more flexible curriculum that will motivate young people and ease their transition to post-16".



ICT-Assisted Distance Learning Project for Gifted and Talented Pupils

Five students from four high schools in south Manchester are already on their way to completing a degree by passing the Open University course: *T171 You, your computer and the Net*. Each school chose four students from their gifted and talented cohort and designated one teacher. They all received a laptop computer for use at home.

All participants received training in ICT from industry-based trainers to prepare them for the course. The training sessions took place on Saturdays and in the evenings. Parents and other family members also attended.

The course is taught entirely online. Each student has a personal tutor available via e-mail and is a member of both a tutorial group and a team working on collaborative assignments.

- accelerated progress in any subject area should be consistent with the delivery of a broad-based curriculum and wider opportunities and should not lead to excessive specialisation;
- accelerated progress for some should not be at the expense of other learners;
- arrangements for differentiation should recognise that pupils may have higher potential in a limited number of subjects, not necessarily across all subject areas;
- use of support materials from Curriculum Online which will be available for all subjects over the next few years.

5.5 Faster paces of learning should be facilitated by collaboration between institutions, in the use of facilities and of teaching staff best able to deal with pupils of higher ability. In many areas, schools and colleges will need to draw on the latest developments in ICT and interactive learning.

5.6 Many young people will benefit from the provision available through the Academy for Gifted and Talented Youth, and the most able might expect to follow individual education plans, negotiated by the Academy on their behalf, which provide coherence as they pursue their education in a range of different learning environments, including online distance learning. A few will be working well beyond their peers at advanced level,

potentially making significant progress at Levels 4 and 5 before they physically attend a university.

5.7 Differentiated progress should not turn learning into a race and, although accelerated progression should generally allow for young people to progress at a pace consistent with their ability and potential, broader educational and pastoral needs should not be put at risk. There is a number of ways in which the flexibility these approaches offer can be applied:

- capitalising on accelerated learning in Key Stage 3 and taking GCSE examinations early;
- by-passing GCSE examinations in some subjects and beginning AS programmes early;
- developing subject knowledge and understanding in greater breadth and in contexts beyond those defined by qualifications, with pupils achieving qualifications in the normal timescale.

5.8 A faster pace of learning can offer a number of opportunities:

- some students may use the 16–19 part of the 14–19 phase for broader and deeper study;
- some may take a gap year before entering higher education;
- a few may progress early into higher education.

We are clear, however, that, although differential rates of progress may involve young people sitting examinations at different ages, new qualifications are not required.

5.9 The delivery of programmes to accommodate different paces of learning raises issues around organisation, capacity, and curriculum and staff management, and, particularly with any smaller group teaching, will have implications for costs and funding. QCA has already made available some guidance in this area and we will ensure that further guidance and support materials are developed where this would be helpful.

A SLOWER PACE FOR SOME

5.10 Alongside arrangements for more able learners, some pupils at the end of Key Stage 3 may need to progress more slowly than others in some or all subjects. Schools and individual pupils are best placed to decide how to support the progress of these pupils. There will be a broad range of options to reflect individual interests and aptitudes.

5.11 If some able pupils sit GCSEs and other qualifications early, then it is reasonable that some pupils should take them later, rather than being entered automatically alongside the majority of pupils at age 16. It may be in some pupils' interests to achieve a higher level later, rather than lower level passes at 16. And for some pupils it may be appropriate for schools to concentrate on securing qualifications at Level 2 in a small number

of subjects by 16 rather than more modest attainment across a broader range of subjects. But schools must avoid the risk of more pupils leaving education at 16 with no qualifications. As with accelerated progress, slower progress for some pupils should not be at the expense of other learners.

5.12 Where pupils do delay taking examinations, schools will need to handle sensitively the transition arrangements to sixth forms or to FE institutions. It is not proposed that pupils should remain a further year in Year 11, but that is a decision which could be taken by the school, pupil and family in some circumstances.

IMPLICATIONS FOR PERFORMANCE TABLES

5.13 We recognise that both accelerated and delayed entry for GCSEs have implications for performance tables, which we deal with in chapter 7.

Q: Do you support our proposals for ensuring that young people should be able to progress at a pace consistent with their potential and abilities?



Chapter 6

Advice, guidance and support for young people

Summary: Young people will need good, independent advice, guidance and support at key points if they are to benefit from the reforms proposed. Careers education will need to prepare young people for the wider range of choices available at age 14. Parents have a key role to play, as have the Connexions Service and its partner agencies including the Youth Service. Financial support from Education Maintenance Allowances, the Connexions Card and Access Funds improves retention post-16.

6.1 Our strategy for developing 14–19 year olds will not succeed if we consider only their educational needs. We must take account of their broader needs, as they develop as young people. An integral part of our 14–19 strategy is to recognise the additional pressures on young people, and to put effective arrangements in place to help them if they need support. This means advice and guidance, and includes financial support. Young people receive this from a range of individuals and agencies. Their first source of advice and support is likely to be their parents; and the second their schools or colleges.

6.2 We recognise that the greater range of options that we propose should be available from age 14, and the emphasis we are placing on planning for progress throughout the phase towards achievement at age 19, imply the need for additional advice and guidance. This includes impartial advice on careers and wider issues affecting learning. Able young people in groups who have not traditionally considered participating in higher education may need additional

support and encouragement. Post-16, young people continuing in full-time education may require some financial support. Vulnerable young people may need support from a range of different agencies, including the Youth Service. This chapter sets out the various strands of the support available to young people.

THE ROLE OF PARENTS

6.3 Our proposed strategy assumes that most young people aged 14–19 will be willing to begin to decide for themselves, with advice and support from both the school and Connexions Service, which pathways they wish to follow, whether towards entrance to higher education or training for a particular career.

6.4 Parents will, of course, continue to play a crucial role in inspiring their children to aim high and to continue in education or training post-16 and to seek expert advice and guidance to help them make their choices. LEAs are now obliged to provide parent partnership services to help parents of young people with special

educational needs play their full role in their children's education. We have suggested that parents should be involved wherever possible in the negotiation of the individual learning plans for pupils towards the end of Key Stage 3. We expect those responsible for the negotiation with each pupil to secure parental involvement and to handle this in a sensitive and flexible manner which meets the circumstances of the individual child. Connexions Partnerships and (where Connexions is not yet established) existing Careers Services issue information leaflets for parents, often in a range of different languages. We want to ensure that parents are well-informed about the choices available to their children throughout the 14–19 phase, and about the support available for young people through Connexions as the service rolls out across the country.

CAREERS EDUCATION AND GUIDANCE

6.5 Young people who have received an effective careers education programme delivered through the curriculum, alongside impartial advice and guidance from external guidance specialists, make the best transitions at age 16 and are less likely to switch or drop out of courses in Year 12. In schools where this dual approach has been employed, young people are better able to see their strengths and weaknesses and make successful career decisions; are able to recognise and appreciate the pathways open to them; and are more confident about tackling post-16 transition successfully.

6.6 Under our proposals, young people will be asked to make choices at 14 on a much broader range of options. Young people will be asked towards the end of Key Stage 3 to begin to plan their pathways towards the Matriculation Diploma at 19 and beyond. This will mean not only making choices about options at Key Stage 4, but also having some idea about options post-16, whether in school, college or the workplace. Young people need to be prepared to make these choices at age 14 through an effective careers education programme during Key Stage 3. We propose that the focus of activity should be in Year 9, but with some preparatory work in Years 7 and 8. Consequently, we will encourage schools to develop a careers education programme from the beginning of Key Stage 3, albeit with a very light touch in the early stages. With good curriculum planning and better co-ordination across related subjects, such as PSHE and citizenship, this will not necessarily involve extra curriculum time.

6.7 We are developing a new national non-statutory specification for careers education and guidance based on best current practice. It aims to set out a framework for delivering careers education and guidance alongside PSHE and citizenship. The specification will build on work undertaken jointly with QCA over the last couple of years, which has led to the series of Department for Education and Skills documents on the role of careers education within the curriculum, including *Preparing Pupils for a Successful Future in Learning and Work* and *Careers Education*

in the New Curriculum. The new specification will not prescribe the amount of time that should be allocated to careers education.

Q: Do you support the proposed focus of the national specification for careers education and guidance described above?

Q: Do you agree that it should begin from Year 7, with a very light touch in the early years of Key Stage 3?

THE CONNEXIONS SERVICE

6.8 Advice and guidance offered by the Connexions Service complements the work of schools. Fifteen Connexions Partnerships are now established; the remaining 32 Partnerships will be operational by 2003. The key aim of the Service is to raise the aspirations, participation and achievement levels of young people in learning. Connexions will be a universal service, with all young people aged 13–19 having access to a Connexions Personal Adviser as needed. Its prime focus will be on giving extra help and support to those young people with multiple barriers to learning or at risk of dropping out. The precise role of the Personal Advisers in each partnership will be agreed with individual headteachers and college principals, to ensure that they add value to the work of teachers and others in the schools and colleges involved. The level of support required will vary considerably: some young people will simply need access to information on learning and career options which will generally be offered in a group setting;

some will need a range of informal learning and personal development opportunities as well; others may need intensive one-to-one support over a prolonged period of time.

6.9 As highlighted above, the Connexions Service has a particularly important role to play in co-ordinating the more in-depth support needed by those young people who are at risk of disengagement or disaffection. This is best done by bringing together what is provided by all services including youth services, social work, youth offending teams and a range of voluntary sector agencies. The underlying principle is that young people are allocated the personal advisers best placed to support them. This point is further explored in paragraph 6.13.

6.10 Personal Advisers can play a key role in raising awareness about the enhanced options and helping young people to raise their aspirations and to formulate their career goals. The role of the Personal Advisers in supporting young people will depend upon the individual Partnership Agreement with schools and colleges, which will be agreed between the headteacher or principal and the local Connexions Service. The implications of the 14–19 reforms for the role of Personal Advisers could include, where appropriate:

- working with young people at risk of disengaging from learning or under-achieving, their parents and teachers towards the end of Key Stage 3 to prepare the individual learning plans;

Connexions Service

John

John had a difficult home background and regularly stayed out late at night. He had been involved with the Police. He has recently changed school but refused to attend at first.

John's Connexions Personal Adviser made a number of home visits to get to know him in his own environment. His PA began to motivate John by looking at the subjects he liked and how he might cope with going back to school. John's PA worked in conjunction with his Education Welfare Officer and the school to set up a programme to reintegrate John back into class. The flexibility of the curriculum on offer in his new school was important in his decision to return. While John maintained his core subjects and in particular his interest in science, he was also able to pursue more vocational options in technology and motor vehicle engineering at the local college.

The PA helped him plan how he would get to and from school, which in turn gave him the confidence to return. Although John's PA played a large part in helping him to re-build his confidence and return to school, the support of the school was essential in the flexibility of options and support on offer.

John has now returned to school and has attended every day since half term. He is well on his way to fulfilling his academic potential. The help and support that John received from his PA has also helped with other issues including his aggressive behaviour.

- monitoring and reviewing those plans with young people during the 14–19 phase, especially to prepare for the choice of post-16 learning, and confirming that the requirements of the Matriculation Diploma have been met;
- brokering flexible learning programmes in complex cases for young people who will take a mixed general/vocational or wholly vocational route where elements of that programme take place outside the school. This will include a particular focus on the personal support needed to ensure that young people at risk of disaffection are able and motivated to complete these programmes;
- using their broader knowledge of, and links with, local employers and training providers, so that young people considering work-related learning as part of their learning programmes have a better understanding of the world of work and the benefits of work-related learning;
- supporting young people as they move between schools and college/employer-based placements; overseeing the off-site learning for those at risk of dropping out or under-achieving; and being a source of support over issues that arise from young people learning outside school;
- encouraging young people to take advantage of a range of informal learning and personal development opportunities in the wider community.

Q: Are there other ways in which Connexions Personal Advisers should provide support to young people in the 14–19 phase?

THE ROLE OF THE YOUTH SERVICE

6.11 The Youth Service is a key partner in the delivery of the Connexions Service and will provide Connexions Personal Advisers for many young people. Traditionally it has helped young people to reach their full potential by developing an important range of skills which cannot always be experienced within the family or in the classroom. These skills include the ability to be self-critical; to take on new challenges; to take risks; and to make informed choices. Informal learning opportunities afforded by good-quality youth work can enrich the curriculum for young people and, by supporting their personal development and success away from the mainstream curriculum, accelerate the pace of more formal learning. The Youth Service, both statutory and voluntary, will also play an increasingly important role in developing community cohesion and racial harmony.

ADDITIONAL SUPPORT FOR VULNERABLE YOUNG PEOPLE

6.12 The new 14–19 phase, with its increased range of opportunities, will be the key to engaging or re-engaging students at risk of social exclusion through providing different styles, content, or places of learning and the prospect of achievable, meaningful and universally-recognised qualifications. However, some groups of young people will be in need of

extra support if they are to benefit from the new phase. These include those truanting or excluded from school; those with learning difficulties and disabilities; those homeless, in poor family relationships or in care; those with low self-esteem; those offending or at risk of offending; those with mental health, drink or drug problems; and teenage mothers.

6.13 A range of services, including health and social services, both inside and outside school and college, is needed to address these problems. The Connexions Service will draw in professionals from partner organisations to offer specialist support to young people facing particular problems. These will include youth workers, social workers, youth offending teams, teenage pregnancy advisers, leaving care advisers and staff from the voluntary and community sectors. One of these individuals may act as the young person's Personal Adviser, under a joint working agreement.

6.14 There is a particular role with vulnerable young people for Learning Mentors and the Education Welfare Services. In schools within Excellence in Cities areas, Learning Mentors are often working with Connexions Personal Advisers as part of a school support team. There is a high degree of flexibility in the model offered to schools, with Learning Mentors often providing additional support for pupils with borderline achievement and for those who have behavioural problems or poor attendance. The Education Welfare Service identifies and evaluates the needs of young people

at risk and not attending school, taking account of the underlying problems at home or at school.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT 16–19

6.15 Until 1997 there was little recognition that staying on in learning after age 16 involved a cost to young people and their families in lost income. Some discretionary awards were available from Local Authorities, but the amount was variable and continually being reduced. Young people not participating or who drop out tend to cite cost or the foregoing of income as reasons for doing so, and there is a direct correlation between low participation and poorer family circumstances. We have introduced a range of measures to address this.

Education Maintenance Allowances

6.16 The Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) is a means-tested entitlement which pays up to £30 a week according to parental income. It is available in a third of the country. If young people fail to attend their lessons in any week they forfeit the allowance. EMAs are having a positive impact on attendance and attitude and are leading to an average five percentage point increase in participation in education in the pilot areas.

Connexions Card

6.17 The Connexions Card uses leading-edge smart card technology to encourage and motivate young people to stay in learning after compulsory schooling.

It aims to do this by giving access to a range of discounts (for example on public transport, books and equipment); rewarding attendance and application through incentives and further discounts within leisure facilities and on the high street; and providing information on careers and life choices through a website. The smart card will also facilitate the enrolment process in schools and colleges and monitoring attendance on education and training courses; and provide evidence to help in validating payment of EMAs.

6.18 Following completion of the trials in the north-east, the Card will be rolled out on a regional basis across the country, becoming nationally available throughout England from September 2002.

Access Funds

6.19 Access Funds are used to make modest payments on a one-off basis to young people with *ad hoc* needs, and are administered on a discretionary basis by colleges and school sixth forms.

6.20 These three areas of financial support complement each other:

- the Connexions Card is available to all young people, irrespective of their parents' income and offers a significant amount of financial help and incentive at minimal cost to the taxpayer;
- EMAs are targeted at people from poorer backgrounds, and the size and regularity of their payments mean that young people and their families can plan and budget for staying on in education;
- the much smaller Access Funds act as a safety net for short-term emergencies.



Chapter 7

Drivers and support for change

Summary: Targets and performance tables will continue to play an important role in driving up standards. We propose changes to school performance tables to recognise differing rates of progress at age 16 and to school and college performance tables to reflect national targets for achievement at Levels 2 and 3. We will ask the Inspectorates to report on the breadth of learning opportunities for young people in individual institutions. We will continue to provide support to schools to drive up quality and will be extending similar measures to the FE sector.

7.1 Our vision is of high-quality, diverse provision across the 14–19 range. The main agents for change are the young people themselves and their teachers and parents, all of whom want higher achievement. Targets, performance tables, quality assurance and inspection, and the various measures aimed at school and college improvement all support the drive for higher standards of attainment. Targets and performance measures are closely linked. We are proposing some improvements to the way in which school and college performance is measured, to ensure that the measures properly reflect the 14–19 reforms proposed in this Green Paper. We are determined to remove any possible barriers that might deter institutions from offering young people a range of pathways.

TARGETS

7.2 The School Standards and Framework Act 1998 introduced Education Development Plans (EDPs), to include targets for local education authorities and statutory targets for schools. Targets have

been a key driver in raising the standards of achievement, which we need if young people are to fulfil their economic and social potential, and they will continue to have an important role in the Government's strategy for raising standards.

7.3 The targets affecting the 14–19 age group are set out in the facing table, which also shows the current position.

7.4 The target of 50% of pupils achieving five or more A*–C GCSEs or equivalent has already been achieved a year early, thanks to the hard work of the pupils and teachers involved. LEAs are required to set targets in their EDPs for all pupils' achievement by age 16. This will continue to be the case in the second round of EDPs, where there is also a focus on narrowing the achievement gap. We also recognise in the guidance on the new EDPs that many LEAs want to move towards a coherent 14–19 phase and we encourage them to do so. We intend that, over time, GCSEs and their equivalents will become a progress check around the

| Age | Target definition | 1997 achievement | 2001 achievement | 2004 target/ milestone |
|--|---|------------------|----------------------|---|
| 14 | Level 5+ English | 57% | 64% | 75% [65% floor] (2) |
| | Level 5+ Mathematics | 60% | 66% | 75% [65% floor] (2) (4) |
| | Level 5+ Science | 60% | 66% | 70% [60% floor] (2) |
| | Level 5+ ICT | 50% | 65% | 75% (2) |
| | At least one Level 5+ | | 78% (Provisional) | 85% (2) |
| 16 | 5+ GCSE at A*–C (and GNVQ equivalent) | 45.1% | 50% (1) (3) | 2002 achievement + 4% points (2) [38% floor] |
| | 1+ GCSE at A*–G (and GNVQ equivalent) | 92.3% | 94.5% (1) (3) | – |
| | 5+ GCSE at A*–G including English and Mathematics (and GNVQ equivalent) | 83.9% | 86.9% | 92% (2) |
| 19 | Level 2 Qualification | 72.3% | 74.8% (1) (3) | 2002 achievement + 3 % points (2) ; 85% (6) |
| | Level 3 Qualification | 48.2% | 50.4% | 55% (6) |
| <p>(1) National Learning Targets (2) PSA targets (from 2000 Spending Review) (3) PSA targets (from Comprehensive Spending Review) (4) Reduced from 80% following consultation (all KS3 targets announced on 2 July) (5) Teacher assessment only (there is no statutory ICT test at present) (6) LSC targets published in their Corporate Plan, summer 2001 Note: age 14 targets are expressed as National Curriculum Levels; age 19 targets as National Qualifications Framework Levels.</p> | | | | |

midpoint of the 14–19 phase. But for schools without sixth forms, the achievement of their pupils at GCSE and equivalent level is and will remain a key indicator of the effectiveness of their performance.

7.5 The Level 2 target for age 19 has been in existence for some years and represents achievement of the skills necessary for employment. The Level 3 target for age 19 was introduced last summer because it was felt right to have a target that was the

benchmark for entry to higher education, and which would mark progression at age 19 from the target by age 16 of five or more A*–C grades at GCSE (the equivalent of Level 2). This target now forms part of LSC's corporate plan.

7.6 Local LSCs have set targets for achievement at both Levels 2 and 3 in their strategic plans, taking account of their starting position and the needs of their area. In its individual provider performance reviews the LSC will press each institution on its contribution to local area targets, against the background of college benchmarking data, which provide evidence of trends and participation in that area.

PERFORMANCE TABLES

7.7 Performance tables have contributed significantly to our drive to raise standards in the education system. They have increased the focus on raising attainment. The school performance tables provide clear links to national targets at 11 and 16 and evidence of each school's contribution to them. They allow parents to compare the performance of schools and encourage schools to analyse their own performance and look for ways of improving it.

7.8 Over the years, we have sought to enhance the information which the performance tables provide. This year, for example, we shall be publishing for the first time information about schools' Key Stage 3 test results, and about the progress which schools help their pupils make between the

key stages in their education, from 11–14 and from 14–16.

7.9 We now plan to go further. We want to encourage schools to allow more pupils to progress at a rate which suits their individual learning needs. And we want to drive up standards beyond 16 by getting schools and colleges to focus on the target for Level 3 attainment by the age of 19, as well as the existing Level 2 target. These objectives will require changes in the way performance tables are compiled and presented.

COUNTING MORE VOCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

7.10 The main secondary school performance indicators focus on GCSE examination results. While the tables do report results in vocational qualifications other than GNVQs, these are relegated to a separate column and do not feature in the key indicators upon which schools' overall performance is judged. This means that some schools may be reluctant to enter their pupils for qualifications which are not perceived to count, while other schools which already offer such qualifications feel that the performance tables treat them unfairly.

7.11 Similar issues arise in the 16–18 school and college performance tables, where qualifications such as A and AS Level and advanced GNVQs are counted in the main indicators, whereas other vocational qualifications, such as the BTEC National Diploma, are not.

Work-related Learning Project
York Science, Technology and Maths Project (YSTAMP)
Action Research Project



YSTAMP was a work-related project using high-quality placements and curriculum experiences to improve pupils' understanding of science, mathematics and technology courses. Two schools, Burnholme Community College and Archbishop Holgates, took part, with 25 pupils at risk of not realising their potential, selected from each. Use was made of business partners in the classroom, off-site students visits, a two-week work placement and additional vocational accreditation to add value to the young people's learning experience. The project has raised awareness of science, mathematics and technology among participating students, raised the proportion who are looking to do A Levels or study GNVQ post-16 and has developed in pupils a better understanding of what employers might be looking for in potential employees.

As the project was so successful, it has expanded to include a further seven schools with a total of 151 pupils. It now uses a broader range of work-related activity such as NVQ Units, GNVQs (Manufacturing, Engineering, Leisure and Tourism), and key skills units. The impact of this wider scheme has been to motivate students towards GCSEs and increase the number and range of qualifications.

7.12 We have therefore asked QCA to work with OFSTED and the LSC to place a value on vocational qualifications – on a scale equivalent to GCSEs and GNVQs – so that they can be included in the key performance tables. Our intention is that as many as possible of the vocational qualifications taken by 16 year olds should be counted in this way in the secondary school performance tables from 2003 onwards.

7.13 In taking forward this work, QCA will also be looking to establish equivalent values for vocational qualifications which are normally taken beyond the age of 16. This work will contribute to the development of the Matriculation Diploma, which will need to recognise the full range of vocational and other achievements which might be acquired by the age of 19, and will enable us to broaden the scope of what we are able to report in the 16–18 school and college performance tables. Our aim is to complete this stage of the work by the autumn of 2003, enabling us to expand the coverage of vocational qualifications in the 16–18 performance tables from 2004 onward.

7.14 Vocational qualifications have value in their own right as part of a fully-rounded educational experience and as a pathway towards further learning and employment. In carrying out the work on equivalences, we shall take care to ensure that vocational qualifications receive the degree of credit in the table that fairly reflects their scope and degree of difficulty. By doing this, we shall ensure that schools and colleges

receive full credit for all the qualifications they enable their students to achieve and not, as now, merely for some of them.

7.15 This work will enable us to count a broader range of achievements as contributing to key national targets. However, we acknowledge that the national targets for 16 year olds towards which we are aiming were set on the basis of the current method of measurement, which counts only GCSEs and GNVQs. To ensure consistency, we shall therefore continue to report progress towards national targets on the current basis, excluding other vocational qualifications, until 2004.

Q: Do you support our proposals for extending the qualifications included in the performance tables?

RECOGNISING DIFFERING RATES OF PROGRESS

7.16 Chapter 5 contained our proposals to enable young people to progress faster or slower than the majority of their peers. We deal here with the consequences for performance measures. The performance tables have for several years taken account of the achievements of 16 year old pupils before they reached their final year of compulsory education. These examination results and qualifications are ‘banked’ and reported in the secondary school tables in the year when the pupil reaches the age of 16. The tables will therefore reflect the results of pupils whose learning is accelerated as part of our 14–19 objectives.

7.17 The position is less straightforward in cases where the school's approach to acceleration is to encourage its pupils to skip GCSE and move straight to studying for AS in subjects where the pupil is particularly strong; or where the school judges that a pupil's best interests would be served by taking some or all of their GCSEs in the year when they become 17.

7.18 In both of these cases, there is a potential disincentive for the school in the way that secondary school performance tables are compiled. The tables report the examination results and qualifications of all pupils in their final year of compulsory education. In doing so, they reflect our targets for 16 year olds, which are also framed in terms of the achievements of all young people in that age group. Pupils who skip GCSEs or who take them or other qualifications a year later than would normally be the case will therefore have the effect of reducing the reported results of a school in respect of its 16 year old pupils. Schools may consequently be reluctant to offer such alternative progression routes to their pupils.

7.19 We acknowledge this difficulty and accept the need to keep the reporting of secondary school performance under review so as to avoid closing off flexible new approaches to meeting the needs of individual pupils. We will in particular ensure that the achievements of pupils taking AS before age 16 are reflected in performance tables. This will be done by establishing the equivalence of AS qualifications to those already counted in the tables as part of the work we have

commissioned from QCA. We intend to be able to count AS in the secondary school tables from 2003.

7.20 We accept that, if some GCSEs may be taken later, this may have some impact on the age 16 target for GCSE passes at grades A*–G and on the corresponding indicator in school performance tables, although not, we would expect, on the key A*–C indicator. We recognise that this may cause a problem for some schools. In the longer-term, as the focus moves to performance at age 19 from that at age 16, we may need to reconsider the position of the target for GCSE passes at grades A*–G. In the meantime we would welcome views on how the performance tables should deal with the performance of those delaying taking GCSEs and equivalent qualifications by up to a year.

Q: Do you agree with our proposals for recording the performance of AS?

Q: How would you propose that the performance tables deal with the achievements of those who take GCSE or equivalent qualifications up to a year later than age 16?

FORMAT OF SCHOOL AND COLLEGE (16–18) PERFORMANCE TABLES

7.21 Performance tables for schools and colleges have traditionally focused on a point score approach in relation to the main indicators of performance at A Level and advanced GNVQ respectively. These indicators provide a good picture of the quality of outcomes for those students who

have completed a programme of study, but they do not necessarily paint a complete picture of the institution's performance as a whole. In particular, the indicators do not offer a direct link between performance at the institutional level and progress at national level towards targets for the Level 2 and Level 3 attainment of 19 year olds (see paragraph 7.5).

7.22 We therefore intend to change the format of the 16–18 school and college performance tables, so that the focus is on the percentage of students who complete a two-year course of study and who as a consequence attain qualifications at either Level 2 or Level 3. The details of this will be worked out as part of the annual cycle of consultation on the performance tables. It is likely that the new indicators will be reported alongside the existing point score indicators, to provide a rounded picture of institutional performance.

7.23 We recognise that these are radical changes with significant implications. We therefore propose that their introduction should be timed to coincide with our ability to report the full range of vocational qualifications taken post-16 and with the introduction of robust measures of the value added by institutions to their students' educational attainments. For both these reasons, we plan to introduce the new Level 2 and Level 3 attainment indicators in 2004.

7.24 In due course performance indicators might include numbers attaining the different levels of the Matriculation Diploma.

Q: Do you support the proposal to change the performance indicators for schools and colleges at age 18 to reflect achievement of Levels 2 and 3?

QUALITY ASSURANCE AND EXTERNAL INSPECTION

7.25 Regular external inspection of all provision for 14–19 year olds is an important element in the challenge and support to institutions, which are essential to raising standards. All schools are inspected, with a report published, at intervals of between two and six years. Inspections of FE colleges are undertaken by OFSTED with support from the Adult Learning Inspectorate (ALI), each inspecting the provision within its remit. All colleges will be inspected in the initial four-year cycle, which began in April 2001. All training providers contracted to the LSC will also be inspected against the Common Inspection Framework by ALI with inspections taking place on a four-year cycle.

BREADTH OF OPPORTUNITY

7.26 A central element of the inspection work undertaken by both OFSTED and ALI is assessing whether the available programmes and courses are meeting the needs of learners. This already embraces collaboration where it exists, so we shall be asking HMCI and the Chief Inspector of ALI to ensure that all inspection reports include a judgment about the quality and range of provision currently available and the impact of any collaboration that exists. That will be a main focus for area inspections. Inspection findings should

therefore provide clear evidence to support further collaborative arrangements where justified.

7.27 Where the report of the inspection of an individual provider comments adversely on the breadth of opportunities, it will be for that provider to take action, with support from the LEA and/or the LSC, by expanding their provision or by establishing collaborative arrangements with one or more other providers. It will be for the LSC and LEA to take action where that is necessary following an area inspection, in cooperation with providers in the area. Subject to legislation, the LSC will have powers to make statutory proposals for the reorganisation of 16–19 provision in an area for determination by the Secretary of State. (The Government’s response to the recent consultation on 16–19 organisation and inspection can be found at www.dfes.gov.uk/consultation/listing/htm.)

AREA INSPECTIONS

7.28 Area inspections of provision for 16–19 year olds aim to:

- encourage the development of collaborative arrangements between providers; and
- encourage the LSC and LEA to develop a continuum of education and training and to consider jointly what steps might be needed to remedy any deficiencies revealed.

Area inspections also draw attention to high drop-out or failure rates.

7.29 In the light of responses to the consultation paper, *16–19 Organisation and Inspection*, published in September 2001, the Government has decided to extend the age range covered by area inspections from 16–19 to 14–19, from a date (subject to legislation) to be decided in the light of the development of the 14–19 phase across the country.

7.30 We intend in the meantime that the 16–19 area inspection programme should have a more flexible approach to defining the areas to be covered, so that the areas to be inspected may cover a single LEA; more than one LEA; or part of an LEA. We also intend the programme to be targeted on priority areas where there are general standards or structural issues.

SUPPORT FOR RAISING STANDARDS

7.31 We need to raise standards across all providers, including work-based learning providers. A number of measures are already in place to raise standards of achievement at both ages 16 and 19. These include both targeted and general initiatives. Targets, performance tables and inspection provide spurs to improvement.

7.32 The support in place for schools includes the action targeted at schools achieving less than 25% of their pupils achieving five or more A*–C GCSEs or equivalent; the Excellence in Cities initiative; the Excellence Challenge; and

the School Standards Fund. We will continue to work to raise the standards of achievement of all pupils, while also seeking to close the gap between the performance of the best and that of those groups who currently lag behind.

7.33 FE colleges are fundamental to the delivery of our proposals. Over half of all young people in education post-16 are in sixth form or general FE colleges. Many colleges are delivering high-quality provision across a range of programmes. Over recent years college achievement rates have improved. However, standards are still too variable and there is more to be done to enable colleges to perform consistently well across the whole range of their provision.

7.34 With the LSC, we will continue to work with colleges to transform and modernise technical and vocational education and to raise standards to achieve a world-class system. We are making substantial resources available to support this drive on standards. These include a reformed Post-16 Standards Fund to ensure funding addresses identified needs for all post-16 providers of education and training. The Centres of Vocational Excellence (CoVEs)¹⁶ are key to our modernisation programme. We intend that 50% of colleges will have CoVEs by 2004. This will enable them to achieve a step-change in the delivery of vocational learning and in their links with local employers.

7.35 We will maintain the drive to improve the training of teachers and lecturers and to raise the numbers with appropriate qualifications. We have introduced new requirements and standards for both FE teachers and the trainers employed by private training providers. While there are some excellent leaders in the FE sector, inspection evidence highlights poor management and leadership in a number of post-16 institutions. We will be establishing a Leadership and Management College for FE and post-16 in order to provide a national programme of training and professional development that will ensure world-class leadership and management skills in this sector.

7.36 We must improve success rates on vocational courses post-16. Currently, 30% of 16 year olds undertake vocational courses in FE and we need to ensure that significantly more of them achieve their aims. Progression to Level 3 is still too low and far too few students go beyond this point. Some vocational courses are taught well; engage and motivate students; use interesting and relevant material; and are delivered at an appropriate pace to meet individual needs. We want all courses to be like this.

7.37 Students on vocational courses often drop out or fail because they have problems with written work and the mathematical components of their main subject of study. They also tend to

¹⁶ CoVEs will be providers of high-quality, specialist vocational training based in FE colleges and focused on meeting employers' needs primarily at Level 3.

underestimate the theoretical component of their courses.¹⁷ We want to capture good practice in the teaching of English and mathematics on vocational courses and make it available to all providers so that students on such courses acquire the skills necessary to achieve their qualifications; have the basic skills for success; and achieve at least Level 2 (either through GCSEs or the key skills qualifications) by the age of 19.

7.38 One of the LSC's main objectives is encouraging young people to remain in learning and increase their attainment. A key priority in 2002–03 is to make significant progress in raising standards across post-16 learning provision, through targeted intervention in inverse proportion to success. The LSC funding methodology provides incentives to retention and

successful completion in colleges in the FE sector, and similar principles will be applied to school sixth form funding and to work-based learning. LSC provider review arrangements, which focus on quality and performance, also include measures to improve retention and achievement. FE sector colleges have annual self-assessment cycles which include the setting and monitoring of targets for continuous improvement. We are considering with LSC the setting of individual provider targets for the improvement of completion rates. LSC monitoring will reveal if particular areas are failing to meet targets; the local LSC will take action to improve performance.

Q: What further measures would help to support improvement in the FE sector?

¹⁷ *Staying the Course: the relationship between basic skills support, drop-out, retention and achievement in FE colleges* – Basic Skills Agency 1997.



Chapter 8

Implementation

Summary: Implementation will be carefully phased in over several years. Changes to the curriculum, qualifications, regulations and guidance will be subject to consultation. We will be testing out enhanced collaborative arrangements between schools, colleges, training providers and employers, from 2002/03, subject to the availability of resources. We will encourage collaboration by removing the barriers; by rewarding and recognising good practice; and by providing some financial assistance. Some additional resources are already available, and we will be looking to increase our investment as resources permit. We will minimise the implications of our proposals for teacher workloads and for teacher supply.

Timescale for implementation

8.1 A number of the measures needed to underpin the new 14–19 strategy are already under way. Others are subject to the passage of the Education Bill currently before Parliament. Collaborative arrangements are already in place in a number of areas between schools and colleges, and with training providers, employers and higher education institutions. Developments in ICT provide opportunities for collaboration between providers without the need for physical proximity. This could be particularly useful in rural areas, but also between providers with different cultural environments.

8.2 In implementing our proposals we will time the changes carefully to avoid clashes with other reforms. These include the Key Stage 3 strategy and the planned changes to qualifications. Where changes to the curriculum are envisaged, there will be consultation on the detail of the changes. These and new qualifications will be introduced to a timescale that allows

careful preparation and time for teachers to be trained in any new requirements. We also intend to consult on the detail and timing of changes to secondary legislation and on new guidance.

8.3 We have indicated our wish to introduce some early pathfinders of the 14–19 phase, and in particular ways of collaboration between schools, colleges and training providers, and involving employers. In developing these we will build on activity which is already happening around the country, including the flexible learning partnerships (see paragraph 3.32), while discussing with those involved the directions in which they might usefully be extended.

8.4 An illustrative timetable for the implementation of the proposals in this Green Paper and related changes is at Appendix 1.

Q: Do you agree with the timetable indicated?

Work with a training provider
Chelmsford Training
Services and The Plume
School, Maldon

Chelmsford Training Services deliver NVQs and key skills to candidates in the workplace working towards Foundation and Advanced Modern Apprenticeships. They also deliver a 'Life Skills' programme which helps young people with varying social and personal problems and prepares them for either work, a training programme or further education.

The Plume School currently has 25 students working in partnership with CTS. This is made up of 11 students in Year 11 who are in their second year of the Work-Related Learning Option (COMPACT), and 12 students in Year 10 who have just completed their first term's placement under the COMPACT scheme. There are also two students on extended work programmes. CTS allocate a qualified assessor for each pupil and visit them regularly in the workplace. The students following the schemes emerge possessing a range of qualifications which will fit them for their chosen career.



COLLABORATION BETWEEN SCHOOLS, COLLEGES, TRAINING PROVIDERS AND EMPLOYERS

8.5 We have said that we do not expect every school or college by itself to be able to offer a greatly extended range of options for the 14–19 phase; that the right way to extend the options available to students is through collaboration with other schools, colleges and training providers, and involving local employers too.

8.6 The aims of collaborative arrangements include:

- wider choice throughout the 14–19 phase;
- increased flexibility at Key Stage 4 in all schools;
- joint curriculum planning between institutions;
- increased flexibility through e-learning and exploiting ICT infrastructure;
- more high-quality work-based training programmes, through collaboration with employers and training providers.

PATHFINDERS

8.7 We need to test a variety of models of collaborative working in order to secure greater choice of pathways. We want pathfinders to:

- test out a range of ideas and discover new ones;

- develop best practice which will inform the staged national roll-out;
- identify barriers to a coherent 14–19 phase and design ways to overcome them;
- demonstrate that the reforms can work in a variety of locations with different social circumstances and different mixes of schools and colleges.

The areas which we choose for pathfinders will need to reflect these objectives.

8.8 We would also want to try out different partnership models, with different partners in the lead. The pathfinders should between them cover a number of different general and vocational options, with a substantial element of work-related learning, including enterprise activity, and links with Modern Apprenticeships. All must cover the whole 14–19 phase. They should include advice, guidance and support; the development of individual learning plans; and the Matriculation Diploma.

8.9 Pathfinder costs will depend on the size of the areas involved, on location, and on how much of a change is involved in a move to collaborative working. The pathfinders will provide evidence of the financial implications of delivering the 14–19 strategy in various circumstances and contexts (see also paragraphs 8.22–8.23). They will be evaluated and the results used to inform the full national development of the 14–19 phase.

8.10 We want to start some pathfinders in 2002/03, particularly in areas where collaborative working is already taking place. We shall be approaching some where we know this is beginning to happen. We would also welcome expressions of interest from others by the end of May. Subject to the outcome of the consultation, we hope to extend the number of pathfinders considerably in 2003/04 and 2004/05 as resources permit.

Q: Do you support our proposals for pathfinders?

Q: Are there aspects other than those mentioned which should be covered by the pathfinders?

ENCOURAGING COLLABORATION

8.11 When the strategy is rolled out nationwide we need not only to build on the lessons learnt from the pathfinders but also create the conditions that will make people want to collaborate:

- by removing barriers to collaboration:
- by rewarding and recognising good practice in collaboration;
- by providing some financial assistance.

REMOVING BARRIERS TO COLLABORATION

- i. Ease of transfer of funding

8.12 If as a result of collaboration, students are spending significant amounts of time in an institution other

than their parent institution, both institutions will need to be suitably funded for what they provide. It would be possible to route all of the funding for these pupils through schools and for the school to make arrangements to reimburse the college for its services. This would give one institution a clear lead in taking responsibility for the student. However, this approach could lead to difficult negotiations over charges. An alternative is for colleges to be funded directly by the LSC for the education they provide. From April 2002 the LSC will be funding school sixth forms as well as colleges and training providers. Switches in funding will therefore be easier to accommodate, and the LSC funding method will make it quite apparent what sum each provider is receiving per student for each course. The LSC also has powers to fund education for 14–16 year olds in colleges. Education of 14–16 year olds in schools will remain funded through LEAs.

8.13 If it is decided to fund students at both schools and colleges, we would need to introduce arrangements for counting the students as part-time in school, in order to avoid double funding. This method would have the advantage that schools would not need to reimburse colleges for the education they provide, but it would introduce some complications of funding method for schools and LEAs. We think there are arguments for both approaches and we would intend to try out both during the pathfinder phase before reaching a conclusion.

Q: Do you have a view on the way students attending both school and college should be funded?

ii. Performance tables

8.14 There is no disincentive to collaboration in the performance tables, whether for performance at 16 or for that at 18. We have announced that performance indicators at 16 will be changed to include a wider range of qualifications; these will include many that would normally be taught in collaborative arrangements. Where students are attending more than one institution, their performance should be recorded for the parent institution at which they are enrolled. The parent institution is responsible for ensuring that its students receive high-quality education or training wherever it takes place.

REWARDING AND RECOGNISING GOOD PRACTICE IN COLLABORATION

8.15 A number of schemes already reward or provide incentives to good performance. These can also be used to reward and recognise good practice in collaboration:

- Beacon schools;
- Beacons in post-16 learning;
- Specialist schools;
- Centres of Vocational Excellence.

Beacon schools

8.16 Beacon schools are good schools which receive special funding to share their good practice with other schools. They are invited to suggest which these areas should be and to submit independent evidence – usually in an OFSTED report – of the quality. In future some will focus on good collaborative practice in educating 14–19 year olds, and the guidance for the next round has invited schools to submit proposals accordingly.

Beacons in post-16 learning

8.17 We expect that collaborative working, which enhances opportunities available to learners, will form one of the criteria for the new arrangements for the award of Beacon status in post-16 learning. These are now being reviewed for consistency with the Common Inspection Framework.

Specialist schools

8.18 The specialist schools programme will have an important part to play in the development and growth of vocational programmes and collaboration between providers. We will reinforce the encouragement to applicants for specialist school designation to be involved in vocational courses. Schools applying and reapplying for specialist status will be asked how they propose to collaborate with other institutions.

Centres of Vocational Excellence

8.19 One of the CoVEs' key operational objectives (see paragraph 7.34 and footnote) is to secure enhanced vocational opportunities for all learners in FE, and for 14–19 year olds in schools. The CoVE prospectus also stressed the importance of building links with schools, and in particular with specialist schools which focused on the same or a related curricular area. The LSC will be monitoring the CoVEs, and we will be evaluating the extent and success of collaboration by CoVEs as part of the overall evaluation strategy.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR COLLABORATION

8.20 We recognise that collaboration will require management; while staff in all the institutions will need to be involved to some extent, an administrative co-ordinator may be necessary. In the pathfinders we will look to see what sort of assistance is needed, and what the costs might be.

Q: Do you support the ways we wish to encourage collaboration?

Q: Are there additional ways in which collaboration could be encouraged?

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Financial implications

8.21 A significant level of investment will be needed to widen the choice of curriculum pathways available for 14–19 year olds. That is why we are already

making some additional resources available as short-term pump-priming:

- £7 million in 2002–03 for 14–19 pathfinders and development work on the Matriculation Diploma;
- £38 million over 2002–04 via the 'Increased Flexibility for 14–16 year olds' programme to support the extension of work-related learning, including support for the introduction of GCSEs in vocational subjects;
- £25 million in 2002–03 for the development of education/business links, including opportunities for work experience.

We will increase this level of investment in future years to sustain further development, as resources permit. Announcements about future funding will be made in the summer.

8.22 There may be a question about the funding of vocational courses at 14–16. The FE sector has long had a flexible system of funding that can cope with courses that cost more than others, and with students who attend for different lengths of time. These flexibilities will extend to the funding of school sixth forms from 2002–03 as the LSC takes over their funding. It is for consideration whether these funding flexibilities should also extend to the 14–16 phase in schools. Many vocational courses are likely to be more expensive than traditional general courses. There would be a case for applying additional weightings to pupils



College delivery of curriculum to 14–16 year olds
Birmingham College of Food, Tourism and Creative
Studies: NVQ Catering Project with Aston Manor School

Aston Manor is a Birmingham secondary school in one of the country's most economically deprived wards. The school has been working with the College for two years to develop and deliver NVQ Level 1 Food Preparation and Cooking courses to

Year 10 and Year 11 pupils. There are currently around 20 pupils on this programme. They have four hours learning in one day each week, for approximately one and a half years. Pupils are taught at both school and college, the mix of location depending on resource need and availability on the school site.

This project works well because senior managers at both the school and College liaise closely, and because there is a clear focus to the project, with easily definable aims and easily assessable objectives. The project has resulted in a number of pupils applying for courses at the College.



taking these courses: either a single weighting for those on vocational courses, which would be relatively simple; or a variety of weightings such as would be used by the LSC post-16. These weightings would need to be applied in the funding assessments from Government to LEAs, and the formulas used by LEAs to fund schools.

8.23 We do not think the case is yet fully made for complicating the funding of 14–16 year olds with weightings of this type. We propose to try out various approaches – without weighting, with a single weighting, and with a range of weightings – during the pathfinder phase.

Implications for teachers' workload

8.24 In framing our proposals as a whole we have taken careful account of the Teacher Workload Study carried out by PricewaterhouseCoopers, and in particular their findings about the pace and manner of change and about the handling of administrative and pastoral tasks in schools. We are applying the findings not just to schools, but also to colleges, training providers and employers.

8.25 As indicated in chapter 3, there are implications for teachers in both schools and colleges arising from the increased flexibility in the curriculum and the wider range of options to be available to young people through collaboration. They will need professional development to enable them to deliver the different qualifications to a wider age range. Although some FE teachers have proven skills and experience

in teaching the younger age range successfully, many may need particular support.

8.26 Our proposals for collaboration do imply some changes in how some schools and colleges run their affairs. There will be a need for collaboration arrangements to be managed; this task does not have to be undertaken by teachers, and we will be looking to the pathfinders to indicate the best way forward. There may also be a need for additional support and guidance to young people spending what may be substantial amounts of time away from their parent institution; this again does not have to be provided by teachers. Many colleges have developed student support roles which may prove helpful.

8.27 We have taken care to build on existing structures and arrangements wherever possible and to pace the implementation so that change can be sensibly planned. We have taken account of other planned changes including those for Key Stage 3 and the FE sector, in order to avoid expecting too much to happen all at once.

Implications for teacher supply

8.28 In the longer-term there may be some implications for teacher supply, arising from a greater take-up of vocational qualifications and from the need for additional support to young people in choosing their options and in marking their progress towards the Matriculation Diploma. We will monitor this carefully in the pathfinders, and also

review the contribution which may be made by other professionals working in schools. Collaboration between schools and colleges should enable teachers from one institution to teach students from a number of the providers in a collaborative partnership. As noted in the White Paper ***Schools achieving success***, we are legislating to enable schools to share teachers with other schools and with colleges.

Implications for employers

8.29 Additional opportunities for work-related learning will entail more involvement by more employers, including small and medium-sized enterprises, with young people. We will be seeking to ensure a minimum of additional work for the employers while making sure that the young people are properly safeguarded. We will be looking to our pathfinders and to the evidence from the expanded opportunities for work-related learning from age 14 to see how this is best achieved.



Chapter 9

Next steps

Summary: We suggest a range of ways of obtaining the views of key players on our proposals. We shall be holding a series of workshops around the country between March and May to bring together representatives of schools, colleges and training providers, as well as LEAs, the local LSCs, employers, Connexions Partnerships and representatives of higher education. The views of young people themselves will be crucial, and we propose consultation meetings and focus groups. We intend also to consult parents, higher education and employers. The consultation will run until the end of May, and we intend to announce the results of the consultation during the summer, with the first pathfinders.

COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY

9.1 The proposals in this Green Paper will be of interest to a wide range of audiences. The most crucial of these are the young people themselves and their parents. We set out in paragraphs 9.5–9.8 how we propose to involve them in the development of the 14–19 phase.

9.2 Schools, colleges and training providers, and those who work in them, are another crucial group, as are those who provide support to young people and those who stand behind the providers, such as LEAs, local LSCs and local Learning Partnerships. A third critical group comprises those who might be said to be the beneficiaries of better-qualified young people at age 19: higher education and employers, and the bodies who represent them.

9.3 We are proposing a range of ways of communicating our proposals and hearing the views of those concerned. First, we

hope that as many people as possible will read this document. The full Green Paper will be distributed to all secondary schools and FE sector colleges in England. It will also be distributed to those organisations with an interest, including LEAs, local LSCs, the Churches and the teacher associations. We have also prepared a summary version, and one for young people themselves. These are widely available. Copies of the summary will be sent to those who receive the full Green Paper and will also be made available in public places such as doctors' and dentists' surgeries. Posters will be placed in schools and FE sector colleges telling young people where they can obtain copies of the young people's version. Online advertising will also be used and will provide an instant link to the online booklet and details of where to get printed copies.

9.4 Second, we are proposing, in close cooperation with the LSC, the Local Government Association, LEAs and

Government Offices, to run a series of workshops around the country, probably one in each local LSC area, between March and May. These will bring together representatives of schools, colleges and training providers, as well as all the LEAs in the area, the local LSC, local Learning Partnerships, employers, Connexions Partnerships and representatives of higher education to discuss the proposals. These workshops will enable those participating to develop their views on the proposals. They will also help to create networks which may later support the collaborative arrangements which are needed for successful implementation. We shall be inviting national organisations to attend one of these workshops, but will also be holding separate meetings with them to discuss the proposals.

9.5 In collaboration with the National Youth Agency and the National Council for Voluntary Youth Organisations, we will organise workshops for Connexions Partnerships and the voluntary and statutory Youth Service to consider how the sector can support schools and colleges in delivering our proposals.

9.6 We propose a range of measures to reach as many young people as possible. In addition to placing the full Green Paper and the summary version for young people on the Young People's Website (www.dfes.gov.uk/youngpeople), we will organise events for a wide cross-section of young people along the lines of that run on the White Paper on 5 November 2001 by the Save the Children Fund. We will also ask experts to run dedicated workshops for

young people in situations where they will feel comfortable.

9.7 We shall invite the UK Youth Parliament, the British Youth Council and others to consider the proposals and will develop focus groups of young people on particular aspects of the policy. These focus groups should be used not only for the development of the policy, but also in its implementation and evaluation. We will also ask LEAs for opportunities to use their young people's councils as a forum for consultation on these proposals.

9.8 Paragraphs 6.3 and 6.4 of this document described the role of parents in supporting 14–19 year olds. We want parents to join in the debate on the 14–19 strategy, and will be encouraging this through the Parents' Website (www.dfes.gov.uk/parents) and through *Parents + Schools* magazine, as well as through some dedicated workshops. We will provide information on a regular basis, building it in to our own publications while also encouraging schools and colleges to involve parents in discussions and to feed back to us the responses.

9.9 The main opportunity for schools, colleges and training providers to become involved will be through the consultation workshops and their follow-up. In addition there will of course be continuing discussions with the national organisations representing the providers and those who work in them.

9.10 The attitude and involvement of employers is critical to the success of the 14–19 reforms. We intend to engage both

with employers' organisations, and with employers themselves, especially small and medium-sized enterprises. We plan to take advantage of existing networks and events to involve employers of all sizes in our plans and to use the Education-Business Links now run by the local LSCs, as well as holding discussions with representative bodies such as the CBI, sector employer organisations and the British Chambers of Commerce. We also plan to invite employers to the consultative workshops. We will expect the new Sector Skills Councils, as they become established, increasingly to help to build stronger links between employers and education and training providers.

9.11 The reforms proposed will contribute significantly to meeting the target that 50% of young people up to age 30 will participate in higher education by 2010. Universities and other providers of higher education will have a key part in ensuring that they do. We intend to engage not only with vice chancellors but also with admissions officers. We plan to visit higher education institutions as well as to hold regional meetings and discussions with bodies such as Universities UK, the Standing Conference of Principals and the Higher Education Funding Council for England. We will invite local higher education institutions to the consultation workshops.

CONSULTATION

9.12 The consultation period will run until 31 May 2002. Responses should be sent to:

Jane Fox
DfES 14–19 Green Paper Consultation
Response Unit
Area 1B, Castle View House
East Lane
Runcorn WA7 2GJ

Responses may also be made online to:
14-19.greenpaper@dfes.gsi.gov.uk

We want to announce the results of the consultation and the next steps during the summer. We would hope at that point also to announce the first round of pathfinders (see paragraph 8.10).



Appendix 1

Delivery of 14–19 learning: illustrative timetable for implementation to 2005/06

Academic Year 2000/01

New AS Levels start

Vocational A Levels start

Academic Year 2001/02

Advanced Extension Awards start

Reformed Modern Apprenticeships available

Key Stage 3:

- Phased English and mathematics roll out
- Year 7 catch up for English and mathematics implementation starts
- 2nd cohort of schools intensive training and support starts in English, mathematics, science and ICT
- Training by LEA consultants in English and mathematics (1st cohort)
- Training by LEA consultants in science
- In-service training on ICT complete

Academic Year 2002/03

GCSEs in vocational subjects introduced

Expanded opportunities for work-related learning available

First tranche of Matriculation Diploma pathfinders starts

First tranche of 14–19 pathfinders begins

National roll-out of Connexions Service

Key Stage 3:

- 2nd phased training programme for teaching and learning in foundation subjects starts
- Annual Year 9 booster programmes for English, mathematics and science start

Academic Year 2003/04

GCSEs in vocational subjects more widely available

2nd tranche of Matriculation Diploma pathfinders

2nd tranche of 14–19 pathfinders

Voluntary introduction of 'individual learning plans'

Different school performance indicators introduced to reflect wider range of qualifications

LSC power to make proposals for post-16 reorganisation takes effect

New guidance to School Organisation Committees on expansion of school sixth forms issued

Key Stage 3:

- ICT tests piloted

Academic Year 2004/05

Subject to resources:

Relaxation of Key Stage 4 curriculum

3rd tranche of Matriculation Diploma
pathfinders

3rd tranche of 14–19 pathfinders

Additional titles of GCSEs in vocational
subjects available

Entitlement to a Modern Apprenticeship
place for 16–17 year olds with five or more
GCSE passes introduced

New Level 2 and Level 3 attainment
indicators introduced

Academic Year 2005/06

Subject to resources:

Roll-out of Matriculation Diploma begins

Roll-out of 14–19 pathfinders begins

Full take up of 'individual learning plans'



Appendix 2

Key facts

A) Information on young people

Table 1: Estimated population, by age¹ (England, thousands, January 2001)

| Age | Estimated population |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| 14 | 629 |
| 15 | 628 |
| 16 | 605 |
| 17 | 608 |
| 18 | 604 |
| 19 | 615 |
| Total 14–19 | 3,689 |

Source: Department for Education and Skills estimates based on demographic information provided by ONS and GAD.

Rounded to the nearest thousand

1 Age as at start of the academic year ie previous 31 August

B) Participation in post-compulsory education

Table 2: Participation in education and training, by age² and institution, (England, thousands, end 2000 (provisional))

| | 16 year olds | 17 year olds | 18 year olds |
|--|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Full-time education | | | |
| Maintained schools | 178 | 138 | 14 |
| Independent schools | 38 | 35 | 5 |
| Further education | 221 | 185 | 84 |
| Higher education | 0 | 2 | 122 |
| Government supported training ³ | 47 | 64 | 51 |
| <i>Of which Modern Apprentices</i> | 32 | 48 | 43 |
| Employer funded training | 17 | 30 | 50 |
| Other education or training | 31 | 37 | 42 |
| Total Education and Training | 532 | 492 | 368 |

Source: Department for Education and Skills, SFR30/2001. Rounded to the nearest thousand, therefore totals may not equal the sum of components.

2 Age as at start of the academic year ie previous 31 August

3 Excludes those also in full-time education

Table 3: Participation in education and training of 16-18 year olds⁴, by economic activity, (England, thousands, end 2000)

| | |
|---|--------------|
| In employment | |
| Full-time education | 447 |
| In training or other education | 306 |
| No education or training | 273 |
| Total in employment | 1,056 |
| ILO unemployed | |
| Full-time education | 60 |
| In training or other education | 26 |
| No education or training | 103 |
| Total ILO unemployed | 189 |
| Economically inactive | |
| Full-time education | 486 |
| In training or other education | 36 |
| No education or training | 68 |
| Total economically inactive | 590 |
| Not in education, employment or training | 170 |

Source: Department for Education and Skills, SFR 30/2001

4 Age as at start of the academic year ie previous 31 August

C) Information on institutions

Table 4: Number of schools by type of school (England, January 2001)

| | |
|--------------------------|-------|
| Maintained Secondary | 3,481 |
| Special | 1,175 |
| City Technology Colleges | 15 |
| Pupil Referral Units | 308 |

Source: Annual Schools' Census, January 2001

Table 5: Number of 14 and 15 year olds⁵, by type of school attended, (England, thousands, January 2001)

| | 14 year olds | 15 year olds |
|--------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Maintained Secondary | 559 | 544 |
| Independent | 44 | 44 |
| Special | 10 | 11 |
| City Technology Colleges | 3 | 3 |
| Pupil Referral Units | 2 | 5 |

Source: Annual Schools' Census, January 2001. Rounded to the nearest thousand.

5 Age as at start of the academic year ie previous 31 August

Other Institutional information

There are:

- 413 FE colleges in total, including:
 - 270 general FE colleges (58 having sixth form centres)
 - 102 sixth form colleges;
- 1,000 Beacon schools;
- 18 Beacon colleges.

Note: England, current numbers

D) Qualifications

| Table 6: GCSE/GNVQ achievements of 15 year old pupils ⁶ in schools (England, 2000/01) | | | |
|--|-------------------|-------------------|-----------|
| | 5 or more A*–C | 5 or more A*–G | No passes |
| GCSE/GNVQ achievements | | | |
| (number of pupils, thousands): | 302 | 536 | 33 |
| – as a percentage of 15 year old pupils | 50.0 | 88.9 | 5.5 |

Source: Department for Education and Skills, SFR 45/2001, numbers rounded to the nearest thousand.

⁶ Age as at start of the academic year ie previous 31 August

| Table 7: Attainment rates by age 19 at Level 2 and 3, (England, 2001) | |
|--|-------|
| Proportion of 19 year olds qualified to Level 2 ⁷ or higher | 74.8% |
| Proportion of 19 year olds qualified to Level 3 ⁸ or higher | 50.4% |

Source: LFS, Autumn 2001. Note that due to sample size difficulties this uses attainment amongst 19-21 year olds to proxy for attainment by 19 year olds.

⁷ For example, attaining 5 or more GCSEs at grade A*–C, an Intermediate GNVQ or NVQ Level 2

⁸ For example, attaining 2 or more GCE A levels, an Advanced GNVQ or NVQ Level 3

Table 8: Attainment of 5 or more GCSE grades A*–C in Year 11 by characteristics (England and Wales, percentage of cohort, 2000)

| | |
|----------------------------|----|
| All | 49 |
| Sex | |
| Male | 44 |
| Female | 54 |
| Ethnic Origin | |
| White | 50 |
| Black | 39 |
| Asian | 48 |
| Other ethnic group | 43 |
| Not stated | 26 |
| Parents' Occupation | |
| Managerial/Professional | 69 |
| Other non-manual | 60 |
| Skilled manual | 45 |
| Semi-skilled manual | 36 |
| Unskilled manual | 30 |
| Other/not classified | 26 |

Source: YCS SFR 02/2001 (revised)

Other Qualifications information:

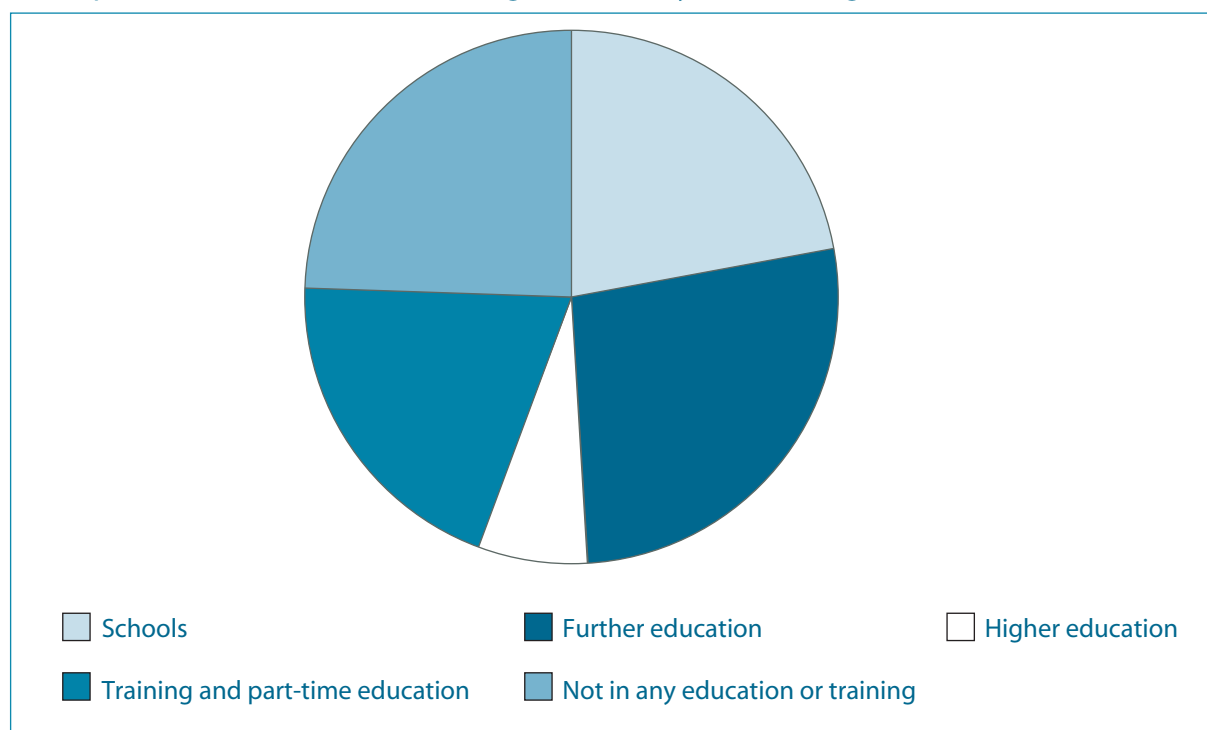
- There are 61,803 early GCSE/GNVQ entries made by candidates under the age of 15 (at start of the academic year) in schools and colleges (England, 2000/01).

Other information on young people:

- There are an estimated 258,000 pupils, or 3.1% of all pupils, in schools with statements of special educational needs in England, 2001
(Source: Statistics of Education: SEN in England, Bulletin Issue no. 12/01, provisional figures)
- There are 47,072 Millennium Volunteers (cumulative total volunteer plans completed, February 2002)

E) Charts

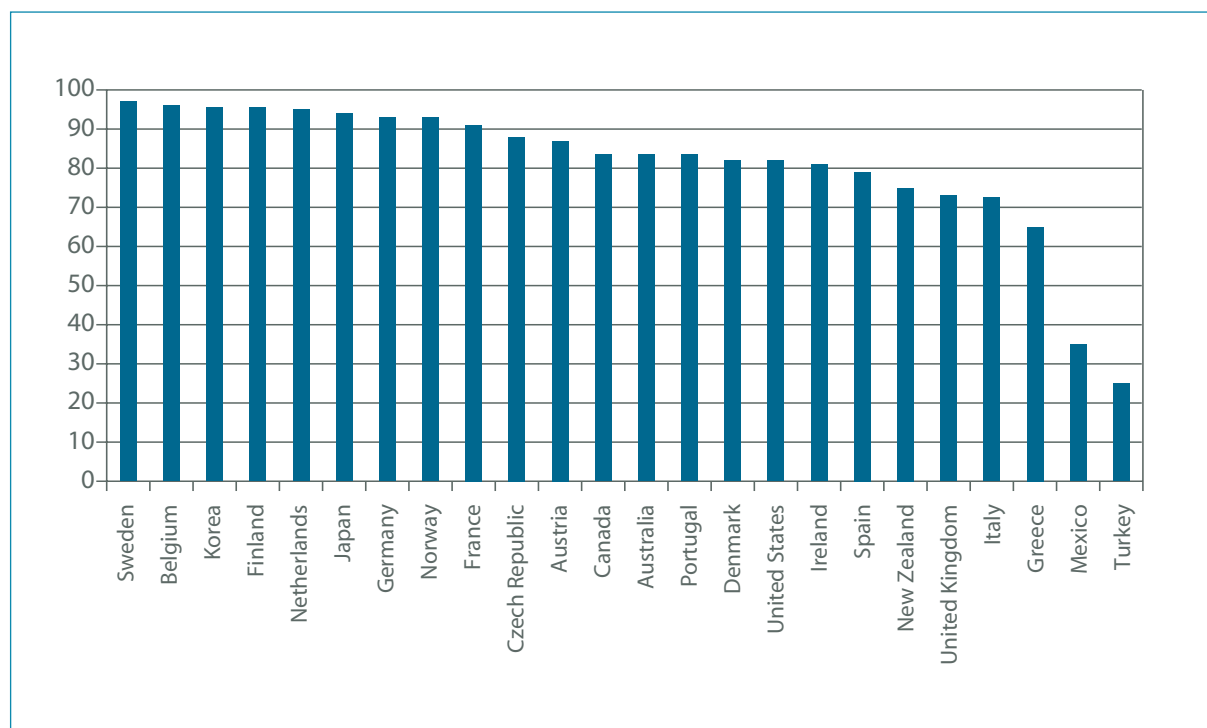
Participation in education and training of 16 to 18 year olds, England, end 2000



Source: Department for Education and Skills SFR 30/2001.

Schools, FE and higher education include participation in full-time education only. Training and part-time education includes participation in government supported training, employer funded training and other education and training.

Proportion of the population aged 17 enrolled in education, full-time or part-time, 1999.



Source: OECD

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