



School year 2026–2027

Planning for next steps after year 11.

Dear parent/ carer,

Now that your child is in year 11 you are probably already thinking about helping them to get ready for what they will do when they leave Southlands.

My name is Diane Simpson, I am a careers adviser, and I work for the Connexions Service. My job is to give advice to young people and their parents or carers about what they could do after Southlands.

I understand that this will be a big step for your child, but together with school staff I will work with you to help you and your child find the right option.

I would like to give you an outline of how the transition planning process works here at Southlands:

Autumn term

I will see your child for a careers interview and attend their annual review. We will discuss options for them as part of these meetings.

I would strongly encourage you and your child to try and visit our local colleges and sixth forms or work-based learning providers – ideally before Christmas if possible. I can provide you with contact details of places that you can visit. Visits give you and your child an opportunity to get a feel for what is on offer.

School will also arrange small group visits, so that students can also see provision with some of their friends.

Once you have visited providers it is helpful if you can let Diane and school know your preference ideally by Christmas so that this information can be shared with the local authority.

Please note that the local authority will only provide transport after year 11 in exceptional circumstances. If you feel that the child in your care will be able to travel independently, it is a good idea to start some travel training with them to help to get them ready.

Spring term

Your child's EHCP will be sent to appropriate colleges, sixth forms and work-based learning providers. They will read it and decide if they can meet your child's needs.

The local authority will make decisions about funding before they agree a placement. This process can take some time and your child's next placement may not be confirmed until Spring/summer term.

Summer term

Once a placement has been agreed the local authority will let you know. We can then arrange taster days for your child to help them get to know their new provider.

If necessary you can apply for Post 16 transport or arrange travel training.

Please note that the official school leaving date for year 11 will be Friday 25th June 2027.

I am here to support you throughout this process. This includes after your child leaves Southlands.

My job is to give you guidance and support about what will be best for your child. I do not make decisions about where your child will go or transport, this is the job of the local authority.

Please do contact me if you have any questions or concerns at any point through this year.

I look forward to speaking with you at your child's annual review and working together during year 11.

My contact details are below.

Kind regards

Diane Simpson

Careers Adviser

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