

Raising Participation Age

COMPLYING WITH YOUR DUTY TO PARTICIPATE

Under raising participation, all young people need to stay in education and training until the age of 18. This is because getting qualifications by the age of 18 or 19 will give you a much better chance of getting a good job and career path.

It will be a legal duty for everyone to take up this opportunity to work towards qualifications. This is called 'participation'.

From June 2015 all young people must be in education and training (full or part-time) until their 18th birthday.

PARTICIPATION DOES NOT MEAN YOU HAVE TO STAY AT SCHOOL!

There is a choice about how you participate. You can:

- remain in full time education (such as school, college or home education)
- go onto an apprenticeship
- be in full-time work alongside part-time learning leading to an accredited qualification
- take up volunteering for 20 hours or more and do this alongside part-time learning which leads to an accredited qualification
- be self-employed, combining this with part-time learning leading to an accredited qualification
- If you are a full-time carer on the LA register of carers, you need to participate at least part-time.

The requirement to participate applies to everyone in the age group

Exceptions to the requirement can only be made in exceptional circumstances. An exemption from the 'duty to participate' can be made by Barnet Council. Circumstances might include:

- a reasonable period of maternity leave (however there is no exception for young parents or house husbands/wives)
- severe illness
- people who have already achieved Level 3 qualifications (2 A Levels or equivalent).

Any exemption that is agreed will be time limited and reviewed regularly. An advisor will encourage and support a return to education and training.