

St Vincent's School for Blind and Partially Sighted Children

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| Policy Document Title: | Leaving School Policy |
| To be read in conjunction with: | |
| Updated: | 07/09 AS/BB |
| To be reviewed: | 07/10 |

St. Vincent's School Mission Statement:

Inspired by the example of St. Vincent, we work together in a safe and caring atmosphere, where a high standard of education and care are provided.

We encourage a sense of achievement, self-worth, moral responsibility and mutual respect, honouring all faith traditions and beliefs. Each one of us in our community is special and unique. Gifts and talents are valued and nurtured through all our work.

We are outward looking in our approach to the wider educational and social community and we encourage all our young people to become independent and to integrate fully into society.

Preparations for Leaving School

At all stages students are encouraged and supported 'to become independent and to integrate fully into society'. In order to achieve this students have access to:

Independent Living Skills

Every student, throughout their school career, works closely with their Key Worker to achieve goals, set by the student (and supported by their parent/carers), to improve their independence. All students are given the opportunity to increase/enhance their independence across the whole curriculum, but more especially in subjects such as food technology, daily living skills and mobility.

Extra Curricular activities

The participation in a range of activities, originating from the school curriculum and the residential setting, is encouraged at all times. Suggestions from the students for places

to visit/activities are always welcomed and considered. Opportunities for participation in events within the wider/local community are sought and encouraged. Residential pupils also have the opportunity to participate in a range of activities.

Transitional Review

Following the students Transitional Review Meeting the involvement of the Connexions Service Personal Advisor, and Social Services (if applicable), is sought to support school provision and post school planning (refer to College Links below).

Work Related Learning Experiences

Within the two year period before leaving school students will be given the opportunity of two weeks work related learning experiences, planned by the school, taking into account their interests, aspirations, independence and mobility.

Leavers Programme

Following the completion of externally accredited courses and examinations students may have the opportunity to follow a programme of activities chosen/planned to enhance their transition from school to further education/employment.

College Links

Following the Transitional review recommendations, students who remain at St. Vincent's for Post 16 provision are given the opportunity of a placement at a local college for one year. The course will support and extend the work being undertaken in school as part of Post 16 curriculum.

These placements are intended to be a transition from the school curriculum to college life with the benefit of the necessary support from St. Vincent's staff.

In line with the school policies and the Mission Statement, students who are completing their secondary school education;

- ❖ will be given the opportunity to visit two specialist colleges for the visually impaired.
- ❖ will visit a college in their home area.

If any of these colleges provide a suitable further education placement for the student arrangements for assessment will be made in consultation with the student, their local Connexions Adviser and LA, parents/carers and school staff.