

Parent/Carer Guide to Post-16 Options in Brislington and South Bristol

Please be aware that the below information is provided as a quick guide to some of the local opportunities available and is by no means comprehensive. For more detailed information please see:

[Bristol Post-16 Directory 2025-2026](#)

There is also excellent guidance available here: <https://www.careerpilot.org.uk/information/your-choices-at-16/help-with-choosing-your-post-16-options>

Sixth Form (A-Levels)

Sixth Forms are a popular choice for students who want to continue academic study. A-Levels typically take two years to complete and allow students to specialize in subjects they enjoy or excel in. This pathway is ideal for students who are aiming for university or careers that require a strong academic background.

Local Sixth Forms:

- St. Brendan's Sixth Form College (Brislington): Offers a wide range of A-Level subjects along with vocational qualifications. With excellent facilities and supportive staff, it's a popular choice for many local students.
- Bristol Cathedral Choir School & St Mary Redcliffe School: Both located in central Bristol, they provide high academic standards and a variety of A-Level subjects, including arts, sciences, and humanities.
- City of Bristol College: Although known for vocational courses, it also offers some A-Level options, giving students flexibility if they wish to mix academic and vocational subjects.

Vocational Courses

Vocational courses offer practical, hands-on training in specific industries and can be a great option for students who prefer learning by doing. These qualifications include BTECs, T-Levels and NVQs, which focus on skills that are directly applicable to the workplace.

Local Colleges:

- City of Bristol College: With campuses in Hengrove and across the city, the college offers a wide range of vocational courses in areas like health and social care, engineering, construction and digital technologies. They also offer apprenticeships in partnership with local employers.
- South Bristol Skills Academy (Part of CoBC): Located in Hengrove, this academy specializes in vocational qualifications, offering courses in automotive industries, hairdressing and more.

Principal - Barnaby Ash

Oasis Academy Brislington
Hungerford Road, Brislington, Bristol, BS4 5EY

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Apprenticeships

Apprenticeships combine work with study, allowing your child to earn while they learn. They spend part of the week working for an employer and the other part studying towards a qualification. Apprenticeships are available at different levels, from intermediate to higher apprenticeships, and even degree-level apprenticeships.

Local Opportunities:

- City of Bristol College and South Bristol Skills Academy both offer apprenticeships in a variety of industries. Local businesses in sectors such as construction, healthcare and digital media often have apprenticeship openings.
- Onsite Bristol: A partnership between local employers and Bristol City Council, this initiative provides apprenticeships in the construction industry.

T-Levels

T-Levels are a relatively new qualification designed to give students a mix of classroom learning and on-the-job experience. Equivalent to three A-Levels, T-Levels focus on specific industries like healthcare, digital, and education. They are an excellent choice for students looking for a more practical alternative to A-Levels.

Local T-Level Providers:

- City of Bristol College: Currently offering T-Levels in sectors such as digital, healthcare and construction, this is a good local option for students interested in these growing industries.

Traineeships

Traineeships are designed to help young people develop the skills and experience needed to progress into apprenticeships or employment. They are short-term courses that combine work and training.

Local Providers:

- City of Bristol College offers traineeships in partnership with local businesses, providing a steppingstone for students who aren't quite ready for an apprenticeship or full-time employment.

Key Considerations for Parents/Carers

1. **Interests and Strengths:** Help your child choose a pathway that aligns with their strengths and passions. Whether academic, practical, or hands-on, there's a route to suit every student.
2. **Long-term Goals:** Encourage your child to think about their future career plans. Some professions require specific qualifications, so it's important to plan accordingly.
3. **Local Support:** Brislington and South Bristol offer a wealth of opportunities for post-16 education. Speak to schools and colleges about open days, career guidance, and taster sessions to help your child make an informed decision.

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