

Careers Quality Assurance for Schools, Colleges and MATs

Investor in Careers — Licensed Awarding Body for the Quality in Careers Standard

About Us

Investor in Careers is a Licensed Awarding Body for the national Quality in Careers Standard, supporting secondary schools, colleges and MATs through structured assessment, expert guidance and independent external accreditation.

Investor in Careers works with:

- Secondary schools — mainstream, special and alternative provision
 - Sixth form colleges and further education providers
 - Multi-academy trusts
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Why the Quality in Careers Standard matters

DfE statutory guidance (May 2025) strongly recommends all schools achieve the Quality in Careers Standard to demonstrate the quality of their careers provision.

Schools that achieve the Standard are better placed to:

- Evidence the quality and impact of their careers programme to Ofsted
- Demonstrate leadership oversight and management to governors and stakeholders
- Show sustained quality over time through a structured, three-year accreditation cycle

CEC analysis (Dec 2025): schools and colleges holding the Standard achieved an average of 6.6 Gatsby Benchmarks — compared with the national average of 6.0. Quality in Careers award holders outperformed the national average on every single benchmark.

Source: Careers & Enterprise Company Compass analysis, December 2025. Based on 578 Quality in Careers award holders compared with 4,863 state-funded schools and colleges nationally.

What the Standard focuses on

The Quality in Careers Standard is not a checklist. It's a framework for sustained quality that supports schools to demonstrate:

- Clear leadership oversight and management of careers provision
- Coherent, progressive, well-planned careers programmes
- Inclusive access to personal careers guidance and support
- Learner preparedness for next steps in education, employment and training
- Evaluation of impact and destinations over time

Our approach – CODE

The Investor in Careers approach structures the assessment criteria around a clear four-stage framework – CODE: Commitment, Organisation, Delivery and Evaluation. This breaks the process into manageable stages and mirrors a genuine quality assurance cycle.

Commitment: Self-assessment, action planning and demonstrating commitment to the Standard.

Organisation: A clear strategy for implementing and managing careers provision, with strategic leadership oversight, governing body involvement and a published policy.

Delivery: An embedded programme of careers education that addresses the needs of every learner and evidences the Gatsby Benchmarks.

Evaluation: Systematic monitoring, review and evaluation – demonstrating impact and informing continuous improvement.

What schools gain

- External accreditation against the national Quality in Careers Standard
- Clear evidence of leadership oversight and management
- Structured evaluation over a three-year accreditation cycle
- Confidence in conversations with Ofsted, governors, parents and stakeholders
- 24/7 access to a bespoke e-portfolio for evidence upload, progress tracking and leadership reporting

- Trust-level reporting dashboard where multiple schools are working towards the Standard together
- Expert support from our experienced team throughout – not just at assessment
- Free masterclasses and webinars included as standard

Pricing – for current pricing go to our website. We offer two packages of support:

Standard package

- Registration and full e-portfolio access
- Support resources, digital guides and editable templates
- One-hour induction and ongoing telephone and email support
- Two independent assessments (desktop and final)
- Award plaque and comprehensive assessment report
- Three-year accreditation

Enhanced package

- Everything in the Standard package, plus:
- Three hours of targeted expert consultancy
- Pre-assessment evidence review with written gaps summary

Group discounts available for MATs and groups of schools working towards the Standard together.

Get Started

Book a 30 minute portfolio demonstration to see exactly how it works in practice

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investorincareers.com | Book a call: [Book time with Sam Ansell @ Investor in Careers](#)

