

Using references – use *cut and paste* to move the quotes into the appropriate place in the text.

Research identifies accurate and effective pre-course guidance as an important factor in ensuring the achievement and retention of students.

All potential Skills for Life students are required to have a pre-course assessment and guidance interview before they enter provision. A computer based initial and diagnostic assessment test is used by the college, although research by the National Research and Development Centre questions the effectiveness of computer based assessment.

The Dfes identifies good practice in initial assessment and states that students should have the opportunity to discuss everything from:

'Students who felt well informed about their course were less likely to withdraw.' (Martinez, 2001:4)

'their past learning experiences and their hopes and aspirations' (Dfes, 2003:16)

'we could not unreservedly recommend the use of any of the ICT based existing materials.' (NRDC, 2005:21)