

BASIC SKILLS EVENTS



Understanding the importance of a good grasp of both basic skills and employability skills in their future working lives is vital for school pupils - the country's future workforce. These skills include:

- Literacy and Numeracy.
- ICT.
- Teamwork.
- Task and time management.
- Communication including listening to, and acting upon, instructions.
- Creativity and innovation.
- Problem solving.

Equally important is an awareness of the range and diversity of businesses in the area and early exposure to enterprise education and a knowledge of how businesses work, in both large and small settings.

The large-scale Basic Skills Events organised for primary school pupils by EBC help to embed an understanding of these skills into pupils' early work related learning and experience of enterprise education through:

- Bringing together local businesses and pupils to work through a series of practical activities that reinforce the relevance of key skills in the workplace.
- Challenging pupils to work as a team to solve problems and to come up with creative solutions to various challenges.
- Offering pupils an 'informal' setting in which to talk with local businesses about career and training opportunities.
- Encouraging pupils to develop the skill of self-reflection.
- Provide pupils with early exposure to positive work related learning and enterprise opportunities.

Basic Skills Events see EBC recruiting local businesses to run a series of practical activities for pupils. EBC works with the businesses to develop activities which reflect companies' particular area of expertise and which match pupils' learning needs and abilities.

The events are set up as carousels, with pupils working in teams of around 10 to experience each activity. Each event attracts up to 120 pupils and activities are tailored to match the ages of pupils. They can be delivered to pupils from Year 5 or Year 6 and often see pupils from cluster primaries coming together at a single event - giving the youngsters an early opportunity to meet others who will eventually be their classmates in secondary school.

In addition pupils from feeder secondaries often attend events to act as Basic Skills Newshounds, gathering information on an event so they can produce a newsletter at the end of the day. Again, this helps to create informal 'buddy relationships' between primary pupils and older pupils at their destination secondary schools.

The Basic Skills Event portfolio of EBC has been diversified to provide highly successful themed events, aimed at meeting individual school needs for example a heavy focus on literacy or numeracy, as well as events specifically designed to motivate under achievers.

Education Business Connections provides:

- Recruitment of businesses to deliver activities.
- Practical advice and guidance to companies on the development of their proposed activities.
- Recruitment of schools to take part in the event.
- Full event organisation, including arrangements for venues, transport, and all related housekeeping aspects.
- Full post-event evaluation.

**'BUILDING CONFIDENCE IN YOUNG PEOPLE THROUGH A CREATIVE APPROACH
TO CURRICULUM NEEDS AND BUSINESS PARTNERSHIPS'**