

WORK RELATED LEARNING



At secondary school level most pupils are already able to take part in intensive work experience programmes which see them spending up to two weeks with an employer.

These intensive learning experiences give pupils the opportunity to gain a valuable insight into the world of work and enable them to practically apply the skills and knowledge they have learnt in the classroom in a workplace environment.

For some pupils, however, that two weeks of work experience is not enough to develop their work ethos, or for them to acquire the vital employability skills a future employer will look for in its staff. These pupils need consistent, regular exposure to the working environment, delivered over a longer period of time in a planned, phased and programmed way.

Through EBC's Work Related Learning programme that regular exposure to the world of work is experienced by pupils for up to two terms during each of their final two years at school.

Like many of EBC's programmes, Work Related Learning can support pupils' portfolio building requirements for various academic and vocational routes including Wider Key Skills, ASDAN and COPE awards.

The Work Related Learning Programme developed offers an additional dimension to enterprise education opportunities for young people. It sees Year 10 or Year 11 pupils spending up to a day each week with an employer, or employers.

Work Related Learning offers pupils an unrivalled opportunity to:

- Get into the habit, and acquire the self discipline required, to report for work.
- Develop key employability skills including both teamwork, communication and independent task management.

- Build strong relationships with a company and its staff.
- Gain prolonged exposure to both the 'routine' and 'unexpected' aspects of work.
- Develop a sense of responsibility and maturity.
- Gain early hands on experience of a potential future career.
- Improve key skills including literacy, numeracy and ICT.

EBC works with schools to identify pupils who will most benefit from its Work Related Learning programme. These pupils then identify their preferred work place and Education Business Connections' skilled staff work with pupils to make the connections between the young person and potential placement provider.

Both pupils and employers are given considerable pre-placement support and this is backed up by a detailed learning plan and on-going support and advice for both pupil and employer. A number of safeguards are tackled, including health and safety inspections and child protection issues, before pupils begin their Work Related Learning programme.

Education Business Connections provides:

- Advice and guidance to pupils and schools over potential placements.
- Supported by Tyne and Wear Education Business Link Organisation (TWEBLO), all relevant pre-placement health and safety checks.
- Induction guidance for both employers and pupils, with a heavy emphasis on health and safety, responsibilities and restrictions, work plans and learning goals.
- On-going support to the pupil.
- Detailed work plan and learning goals for the pupil.
- On-going monitoring of the placement to support both pupil and employer.
- Full monitoring and evaluation service.

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