



Work Experience information for Parents and Carers



Shortly your child will be attending a Work Experience placement

These placements are an important part of the educational programme and will be of benefit to your child's understanding of the 'world of work'. They enjoy the activities involved and find that it helps them to understand the importance of what they learn in class. More than this, by showing the relevance of learning to future lives it motivates them to study harder, helping to improve attendance, behaviour and achievement. When employers work well with schools and colleges it makes a difference to young people. It helps them to achieve more and to develop those skills which are most in demand by modern employers.

Students have commented on the extra enjoyment and depth offered to their learning from being on work experience. They tend to feel happier in their schooling generally and this leads them to improved behaviour and achievement. School-based activities that involve employers can also improve the aspirations of children and young people. They are motivated by them, thinking more critically about their future career options and seeing more clearly the relevance of their school or college work to future employment. After they've completed work experience, overwhelming majorities of young people agree that they have a better understanding of the skills that employers are looking for and had a chance to develop and display such skills on their placement. This is an obvious benefit to future employment.

There are important points when considering placements

- 1. Is the environment safe for a young person to be working in?**
We only match the pupil to a place where we feel they will be safe. Also, the local authority must approve each placement.
- 2. Is the placement one that my child has requested?**
Each child makes a list of placements they would like and then we try to match the child to that placement. Some requests would not be possible, for example astronaut, surgeon etc., as they are not realistic. However, we do discuss each placement with the pupil and try to come to a reasonable agreement to suit everyone. We cannot change placements at short notice or during the work experience.
- 3. If my child goes on Work Experience does it mean that he / she will have that job in the future?**
No. Work Experience means just that 'an experience of work'. The pupils will benefit and learn what it is like to go to work, travel independently (if appropriate), do a full day's work, communicate with colleagues and learn to behave in a way that is acceptable in a work place.
- 4. Where will the Work Experience take place?**

Many pupils who are in residence will have Work Experience in Derby as will those who live locally. We will try and arrange this in partnership with parents. Some parents prefer to arrange a placement near their home area. If this is the case, we need to know in advance so that a health and safety of the placement can be made. Note that RSDD cannot pay for communications / interpreters for placements which are arranged by parents.

5. Who will monitor the placement?

If the placement is within reasonable travelling distance, the school careers teacher will visit before the placement begins and also during the placement.

If there are any problems during the placement the school are “on call” to visit.

If the placement is in your local area then we may visit or telephone for reports.

6. How can I help my child?

You can discuss the placement before your child goes.

✚ **Travel** If your child is going to travel from home you can make sure he/she knows where to go and the times of buses etc.

✚ **Clothing** Discuss what would be suitable clothing for the placement, for example if working outside, warm clothing etc will be required. We will send a letter if anything special is needed. Trainers should only be worn in sports centres. Please keep jewellery to a minimum (stud ear-rings only, no hoop ear-rings, no necklaces, no body piercing jewellery)

✚ **Diary** Encourage your child to fill in the Work Experience diary, which they will be given near the time, and give them help if needed.

✚ **Report** At the end of the week look at the employer’s report and discuss it with your child.

7. Will there be problems?

Sometimes there may be problems, usually tiredness because pupils are working a full day, so please encourage early nights during that week.

If your child decides they do not like the placement and want to stop, please encourage them to finish as it is only one week. It is also worth reminding them that most adults work every week. It is an important part of learning to experience all aspects of work life, including being busy or quiet and that it may be hard or easy at times.

8. What about food and drink?

Some places have a canteen or a local shop and other places staff have to take a packed lunch. It is advisable on the first day to take a packed lunch and some money so that the child can choose which to do for the rest of the week. If your child is a resident pupil food and drink will be provided by the school if necessary.

9. Do all pupils go on Work Experience?

All pupils are offered the opportunity to take part in a work experience.

If we consider that, because of additional needs, a pupil would not be safe at work we try to make on site arrangements or a programme of visits. We try to ensure that all pupils receive, if only for a short period, an experience of the work place.

If we do not have parental permission your child cannot go

FINALLY

It is important that school and parents work together in the Work Experience process to ensure the placement is a successful learning experience. Together we can give them all the support they need at this important time.