

SALTASH.NET COMMUNITY SCHOOL

YEAR 10 WORK EXPERIENCE – Frequently asked questions

Is Work Experience compulsory?

Yes, it is part of the curriculum.

Where can students do their placements?

With suitable employers in England and Wales who hold the correct insurance.

What is the necessary Insurance?

Employers MUST hold BOTH Public Liability and Employers' Liability Insurances – there can be no exceptions.

How can parent/guardian help?

- Help your son/daughter to understand the goodwill of employers offering placements.
- If at first you don't succeed to find a placement keep trying, don't give up.
- Encourage your son/daughter to browse the internet and get out and about.
- You may know a neighbour or friend who could offer a placement to your child, explore all avenues.
- Don't be tempted to ask on behalf of your child, most employers prefer to be approached by the student.
- Ensure all the paperwork is completed and returned on time. Assist your son/daughter in chasing up paperwork from the employer if necessary.
- Help your son/daughter to adopt good work habits, eg. punctuality, appropriate appearance and behaviour.
- Ensure your son/daughter attends the placement every day.
- Inform the school of any difficulties that your son/daughter may be having during the process.
- Encourage your child to have a positive approach to the placement, even if it isn't quite what they expected.

What is an unsuitable placement?

Workplaces with serious hazards or placement at parents own company or with close family.

Do students need an interview with the employer?

Many employers will ask students to attend an interview, we ask parents to help us by ensuring this is done. ALL students are encouraged to make contact with the employers a week before they attend, even if they have had an interview.

How safe are the placements where students are sent?

We take all reasonable steps to ensure student safety. Employers complete a risk assessment in view of details provided by you of your child's age, abilities and health. We check that the employer is aware of child protection issues.

All placements are checked for Health and Safety by the Education Business Partnership (part of Cornwall Council) before being approved. If EBP do not approve a placement the student will be unable to attend and will need to find an alternative placement. We provide a general Health and Safety course before your child starts their placement and if they are undertaking a high risk placement we will make sure that they are aware of the specific risks and their control measures.

What is a high risk placement?

A high risk placement is usually the type of place where large quantities of heavy machinery are involved or other risks such as high temperatures. Examples of these are construction sites, garages, farming and catering establishments.

Cancellation of placement

Unfortunately, some placements do withdraw their offer of work experience. If this situation arises, depending on what time of year it occurs your son/daughter may have time to find another placement. If a placement withdraws within 6 weeks of the commencement date, we will do all we can to help find another placement and have the relevant checks done but cannot guarantee that clearance will be given in time for the student to attend the placement. In the event of this your child would need to attend school where work will be provided by teaching staff.

What costs are involved?

Only transport to the placement (if applicable), cost of lunch & drinks, and occasionally special equipment (eg Safety Boots, riding hat, although some employers will provide this).

Working Hours

The Working Time Regulations 1998 apply to students on Work Experience however, the number and pattern of hours worked is normally agreed by the employer, school, student and parent/guardian. If possible normal hours should be worked, although evening work is permitted.

What if there is a problem at the placement?

There is always a member of staff available on school premises 8.00am – 4.00pm, Monday – Friday. In addition to this a work experience monitor will visit during the week to make sure the student and employer are happy.

If a student cannot attend the placement they must inform both the employer and school immediately. Students are requested to keep the work experience dates free of commitments.

What happens after Work Experience?

The Log Book that your son/daughter has been given should be completed whilst they are at the placement. On their return to school their monitor will meet with them and have a discussion. Students should know more about the world of work, have a better understanding of their own strengths and weaknesses and will have practised or acquired important skills – including communication and team working. Most students get a very positive report back from their employer which they can keep for future reference. In addition to this they will be issued with a certificate.

If you have any further questions please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Boulton on 01752 843715 x221