

W O R K

EXPERIENCE

Guide for
Parents /
Guardians

Sandwell
PARTNERSHIP
EDUCATION BUSINESS

**WHAT ARE THE
BENEFITS OF
WORK EXPERIENCE?**

- Parents/Guardians often find their child will gain in maturity and confidence as a result of their Work Experience.
- They may, in fact, change their ideas and attitudes, and you can help by talking things over with them.
- Your support is vital at this time, but if further guidance is needed you can contact your school's Work Experience Co-ordinator.

**This leaflet has been produced by
Sandwell EBP**

**WHY ARE
NON - TRADITIONAL
PLACEMENTS A GOOD IDEA?**

- More adventurous choices can broaden the pupil's experience.
- All pupils have different interests and talents they should not limit themselves.
- The career patterns and roles of women and men are changing.
- In an uncertain job market it is an advantage to be flexible in thinking about the future.
- A non-traditional a placement can encourage a pupil to aim higher.

If your child wants to do a work experience placement with a difference - or if the school suggests he or she could consider one - what can you do?

- Talk it over with them.
- Try not to put them off - they may gain a lot in confidence and maturity from the placement.
- Support them while they are on work experience - they may need extra reassurance if there are only a few other males/females there.
- Be proud of them, for trying something different!

**WHAT IS
WORK EXPERIENCE?**

Work Experience represents an opportunity for pupils, to explore the world of work. They can find out more about:

- **Work** and how it is different from school.
- **Themselves** what they like and what they are good at.
- **How** they might improve their chances of achieving their goals.

As a Parent/Guardian you should already have received a letter from your child's school asking for your consent and explaining insurance cover.

Now you may be wondering...

"How can I help my child?"

Here are some ideas

BEFORE Make sure they know:

- **Where** they are going and how to get there (bus times/fares etc.)
- **Who** they should ask for when they arrive.
- **Times** for starting/finishing the day.
- **Arrangements** for breaks and lunch (do they need to take their own sandwiches etc., or money to buy something?).
- **What they should wear** (will they get cold/dirty/be on their feet a lot?).

DURING See that they:

- Get up in time to arrive punctually.
- Take with them everything they need.
- Get enough sleep as they will probably be very tired at the end of each day (they will be at work longer than they would be at school).
- Encourage your child to talk about their experiences each day. You may need to reassure them as this will be a new experience for many.

**WHAT IF THERE ARE
ANY PROBLEMS?**

- Your first point of contact is the school.
- If (for example) your child is having difficulties getting on with other people or coping with the work, again, you should contact the school as soon as possible.
- A member of the school staff will be visiting each pupil during their Work Experience to see how they are getting on.

AFTER

- Check they have finished any logbook or diary they are supposed to have completed.
- Complete the Parents / Guardians Report within the logbook.
- Talk to them about what they have learnt and whether it has changed their plans.

Sometimes pupils go to non-traditional work experience placements - girls into occupational areas which are usually followed by men, and boys into areas where the majority of workers are women.