

Case study: Our Future Derby



Derby Opportunity Area

Funded through the Department for Education Opportunity Area programme.

The Challenge

Our Future Derby is a partnership project designed to introduce and engage primary school children in the changing world of work to enhance awareness, broaden horizons, raise aspirations and open a world of greater possibilities to the children, their families and their teachers.

Our Future Derby is a Department for Education and Derby City Council funded initiative, which is operating throughout seven Wards in the Derby Opportunity Area. It aims to inspire children and connect primary schools in Derby with the world of work, helping businesses to engage with primary aged children and excite young people in the city around the types of careers that they may one day want to explore.

Learn by Design lead on the school and community engagement and education stand of the programme. Through comprehensive engagement with 32 Derby Primary Schools, teachers, parents/carers, and local businesses, along with a host of volunteers, a programme of interactive activities are delivered in schools to help reinforce and change long term behaviours.



Delivery

The programme reaches out into local communities drawing on the highly successful Learn By Design approach that brings world of work activities into the classroom and local communities. The activities involve providing young people with meaningful encounters with positive role models to ensure the children see that there are opportunities for both genders, different ethnic backgrounds, different socio-economic backgrounds and for people with disabilities within all career journeys. These activities provide young people with the opportunity to meet a wide range of people doing different jobs in their local communities from an early age, which is particularly important for children from disadvantaged backgrounds.

As well as meeting and working with career volunteers, the Learn by Design team also deliver engaging, hands on activities designed to broaden the horizons of pupils, increasing confidence and resilience and extending their ideas about what they could do in the future. There are a range of attributes, skills and behaviours that can be instilled in this stage of a child's life that will leave them in the best possible position as they begin their transitions to secondary education and to future life. Activities are designed to develop children's key future skills in line with the Skills Builder Framework, aiming to reduce the skills gap between education and the world of work.



Resources

For each of the activities, materials are produced to enable the school to sustain the project and build on children's experiences both in school and at home. The online resource portal includes lesson plans, videos, work sheets and structured activities, as well as guidance for both teachers and parents/carers in continuing the discussion about careers with the children.

The resources have been designed to support both remote home learning and teacher lead learning in schools, helping to take the pressure off teachers from having to search multiple sites for activities, enabling them to access a one-stop shop for careers related learning.

