

What is work experience?

- Work experience is part of the school curriculum and consists of a one or two week work placement for students in Years 10 and 11.
- Every year over 8,000 students go on work experience across Calderdale and Kirklees.
- Many local companies offer placements for students.
- At Calderdale & Kirklees Careers we make arrangements with schools and businesses to ensure the placement is as safe, enjoyable and meaningful as possible.

What does it involve?

- Students find out first hand about the 'world of work.'
- In schools students prepare for work experience and learn aspects of the world of work, including Health and Safety.
- Students usually attend with a diary or workbook. They may need to gather information and complete short assignments.
- Teachers will pay a brief visit during the placement to see how the student is progressing.
- Debriefing happens on return to school where students share and learn from experience and should send the placement a thank you letter.

What's in it for students?

Work experience gives them the chance to:

- Find out more about the world of work and how it differs from school.
- Gain an insight into different jobs in a company.
- Find out about the local economy, the local labour market and company structures.

- Carry out real, meaningful tasks and learn new skills.
- Achieve in and adapt to a new environment.
- Work with and be treated as adults.
- Develop confidence and communication skills.
- Make more informed decisions about their future.

Some important facts

- Work Experience is co-ordinated by Calderdale & Kirklees Careers – Work Experience Department.
- Work experience is about experiencing the workplace – not about job sampling for a career. At 14-16 there are many areas of work that students are not allowed to work in.
- Work experience is part of education and therefore UNPAID.
- Work experience placements are checked for Health and Safety purposes and companies sign a work experience agreement.
- All placement providers must have Public Liability and Employers' Liability Insurance.
- Employers receive no payment for taking young people on placement – it is purely goodwill.
- At the end of the placement your son or daughter should receive a report completed by the employer. They will also receive a work experience certificate from us. Both can be included in a progress portfolio.
- We are constantly aiming to expand our database of companies. If you know of any local companies that would offer your son or daughter a placement, please get details and let school know.
- High risk placements such as garage work require safety boots, which are not provided.