

Ourfuture

Funded through the Department for Education Opportunity Area programme.



Delivered by

LEARN
bydesign

Now in its third year, the Our Future programme engages primary school children in the changing world of work to broaden horizons, raise aspirations and open a world of greater possibilities to children, their families and their teachers.

Funded by the Department for Education Opportunity Area and delivered by Education and Employers, Learn by Design and dmh Associates, this innovative initiative is operating throughout Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire, connecting primary schools with the world of work, helping businesses to engage with primary aged children and exciting young people in the region 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 strand of the programme. Through comprehensive engagement with over 40 Primary Schools, 15 Multi Academy Trusts and local businesses, along with a host of Career Volunteers, a programme of interactive activities are delivered in schools to help reinforce and change long term behaviours.



Innovative 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 everybody within all career journeys, with a focus on reducing stereo-types based on gender, ethnic background, socio-economic background and disability. 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.

The Learn by Design team work directly with local businesses and also utilise the online 'Primary Futures' portal to link with individual volunteers. Once engaged, career volunteers receive training to cover key information regarding tackling unconscious bias, safeguarding and effective communication with primary aged children.

As well as meeting and working with career volunteers, Learn by Design 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.



Legacy 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.



Continuing Professional Development (CPD)

CPD webinars for school senior leaders and teachers provide the opportunity to learn more about the evidence-base and evaluation findings from the programme, as well as how to embed career-related learning in primary schools. By identifying support and providing opportunities for the sharing of best practice between schools, the webinars provide support on overcoming barriers to become sustainable and impactful in embedding careers related learning into the curriculum.

Founded on Research

Research from the pilot project working with 33 schools in Derby shows a vitally positive impact on children's motivation and aspirations at a time when children faced unprecedented challenges in their education. Read the executive summary or full report from Dr Deirdre Hughes OBE, international expert in careers-related learning and leading academic researcher in education, employment and skills:



Executive Summary: https://www.educationandemployers.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Executive-Summary_Our-Future-Derby-2021-Evaluation-Impact-Report.pdf



Full Report: <https://www.educationandemployers.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Our-Future-Derby-2021-Evaluation-Impact-Report-.pdf>



Visit: <https://ourfuture.startprofile.com/page/home-page>

Endorsed by Teachers and School Senior Leaders

“ Our Future Derby has been inspirational to the children in learning about future careers and aspirations. Our children have now learned about careers that they never knew existed and have been inspired to think of new futures for themselves. The children have enjoyed the teamwork involved in the projects we have done and have learned to work collaboratively to achieve and be successful in things that would not ordinarily do in the school day. ”

Mrs Stuart, Assistant Headteacher at Oakwood Junior School

“ Our Future Derby is raising our children's aspirations and enabling them to see the dots on the horizon in the world of work. We do not know what jobs will look like in ten years time due to our ever changing world, but through their inspiring work with our children, they are helping to prepare them for this so that they can be successful. ”

Kirsty Ryan, Principal at Wyndam Spencer Academy

“ Children in Year 4 thoroughly enjoyed learning about maintaining and understanding business, healthy lifestyles, responsibility, and sustainability. The sessions were engaging, interactive and fun and enabled children to consider their aspirations for the future. Thanks for a great session! Thanks for your support this year! ”

Mrs. Tague, Cavendish Close Head Teacher

“ The pupils have been looking at different types of engineering today which has been brilliant as a lot of them didn't realise how varied engineering is, the jobs they can do and all that engineering encompasses. They learnt about bridge building and employability skills which has been really good. They used problem solving skills, working together and listening to each other. The team were great at getting the pupils engaged and they really enjoyed testing out their bridges. Derby has lots of potential and children had changed their views of engineering from the beginning of the session to the end. It was brilliant to see the 50/50 split between boys and girls who would like to become Engineers now as they grow up. ”

Miss Hambleton, Year 3 Class Teacher at Cherry Tree Hill Primary

To gain an insight into the project please watch this short video showing the impact of career related learning at Landau Forte Academy Moorhead, an Our Future school: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gAFHtEjvv9I>

