

Case study

Becket Primary School

18th November 2020 –

Virtual Where does my job take me

19th November 2020 –

Virtual How did I become

Aims:

- Raise Aspirations
- Help children broaden their horizons and learn about careers that involve travel
- Allow children to see career progression and link this with what they learn at school.



The Our Future Derby programme

The Learn by Design team joined the pupils at Becket Primary school, Derby; a selected primary school chosen for the Our Future Derby programme. The programme aims to help raise children's aspirations and open children's eyes to their future possibilities. The activities provide an opportunity for schools to connect with local employers and learn about the many different and diverse jobs available in Derby.

Becket Primary

Becket Primary is a small one class year group school with most pupils of White British heritage. There is a high level of pupil transience with up to 25% of the pupils moving from the area and school at some stage of their primary schooling.

The school has an above average proportion of pupils eligible for pupil premium funding. For these activity days we focussed on working with Year 4, a class of 31 pupils.

Planning the Days

The Our Future Derby School Engagement Coordinator worked with Becket Primary's Career Related Learning Champion to plan two KS2 careers themed workshops to be delivered virtually. These were a geography themed 'Where does my job take me?' event and a career progression event called 'How did I become?'

The day was developed to include interactive virtual encounters with volunteers from the world of work. The events were posted on the Primary Futures Portal (<https://primaryfutures.org/>) to secure Career Volunteers to support the two concurrent days. This is an easy, safe and effective way to connect with inspiring volunteers all across the UK.

For the 18th November, the volunteers included a long-haul Captain Pilot who works for British Airways and a second Pilot and flight instructor for Eastern airways who was born in Hong Kong and moved to the UK as a child. The 19th November volunteers including an Aviation Aeroplane Accident Investigator, an Architect who was born in Nigeria and now lives in London and a Corporate Lawyer for F1.

The volunteers were diverse, with a range of backgrounds ranging from Nigeria, Hong Kong, China and Dubai as well as the UK.

Skills Focus

The activities were 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.

Volunteers were briefed beforehand and asked to talk about the skills that they need to do their job and why these skills are important.

18th November Virtual 'where does my job take me?' Day

We used Microsoft Teams to host the events. A quick introduction was given where the volunteers were introduced by name only and the children were tasked with guessing each of the volunteer's job role. After a few rounds of questions from the children, a prop was introduced to help the children guess their jobs. The Q&A ended in a grand reveal where each volunteer introduced themselves and explained the career they worked in. The range of jobs made for a very interesting activity that challenged career stereotypes and included some interesting questions and answers.

The job roles linked into the school's geography theme and the volunteers shared anecdotal stories about where in the world their jobs had taken them. They gave insights into how they got into their role and tips about the funding available to become a pilot.

They also shared tips about how to stop your ears from popping under pressure and pictures of the pilots seat, controls and the inside of a cockpit which lead to loud gasps of awe and surprise from the children. The class were given a virtual tour and explanation of how planes work and what each dial and sign was for.

A final worksheet-based activity was left for the teacher to facilitate which involved the children matching up jobs involved in travel to their typical destinations, focussing on Geography in a fun way.

19th November - How did I become

This day began by asking the children to share their goals and aspirations. The facilitator then spoke about the foundations of any career beginning where the children are now – in school. A key message underpinning the days was that with strong foundations being constructed at the beginning of your career in school, you can achieve success in a job role that you enjoy.

We began with a virtual Q&A session with a theme of career journeys starting at the beginning with the volunteer talking about their days in education. The children asked some brilliant questions to narrow down what the volunteers could be and how they could have ended up in their roles.

The Career Volunteers were briefed prior to the event to emphasise the focus on attainment in school and resilience linking this into our eight skills of success. The Career Volunteers kept their language simple, free of jargon and emphasised the key messages of working hard even when times are tough and to keep on going. An interesting underlying theme was that of career progression and studying in one area and working in a related but unexpected area – our Corporate Lawyer now worked for F1 and flew all over the world with them.

Stereotypes were quashed regarding male and female roles and the children were encouraged to follow their dreams.

Simple career ladder worksheets were completed by the children and used to visualise the volunteers career journeys starting from the foundation of schooling to their current position.



Career Volunteer Feedback:

“I thoroughly enjoyed discussing my career with the children. Seeing how enthusiastic they were to learn about different options that are open, that perhaps they had not considered before was a real pleasure. The IT worked well and the children were really involved and interested.”

Air Pilot

“It was well organised and it made me feel like I can make a difference to children”

Architect

“It was really great to see the enthusiasm with the children. I really loved the interaction with the class.”

Aviation Aeroplane Accident Investigator

“I learnt new skills and gained experience doing this. It's the first time I've done this and it worked just fine! The 'What is my Job' game engaged the class and the mix of professions (Engineering, Legal, architecture) kept it interesting for all.”

F1 Corporate Lawyer



The Outcome

The quality and diversity of the Career Volunteers made the two events memorable and inspiring.

Key messages included:

- An emphasis on the importance of STEM subjects as the children may be in jobs that have not yet been created.
- There are no gender specific roles - boys and girls can do the same jobs.
- There are different stages of every career and you never stop learning.
- What you learn at school is essential for your future success.

The Career Volunteers were briefed to where possible make an explicit link to the subjects they learned at school and the success they have achieved throughout their careers.

Making a connection between what children learn at school and the jobs they might one day pursue is not easy, particularly for those from challenging backgrounds, where local unemployment is high, and horizons may be set low. For example, children often struggle to see the meaning of academic learning to the real world. Through engagement with people who bring an authentic experience of the uses of subjects of study in the working world, we can challenge the assumptions developed by children, allowing them to draw richer, more informed connections between education and their success in adult life.

Feedback

“ A highly engaging session..... The types of jobs that were spoken about had the ‘wow’ factor and provided a great backdrop for the children to begin to ask some very interesting questions..... The children sat for a long time and listened well, which is testament to how interesting the speakers were.

I was really impressed with the standard of careers that were talked about. It really gave the children something to think about and the focus on all children being able to reach their desired profession was very strong.

The children were taught the importance of working hard at school to enable them to have as many opportunities as possible. The emphasis on studying hard in Maths, English, and Science as well as all other subjects was reiterated throughout.

For our next activity it would be useful to include jobs that the children are familiar with e.g. waiters, hairdressers, bus drivers for example so that children can see that these jobs are successful too..... It would be good to hear the career journey of someone working in a lower skills job and have them talk about how English, Maths, Science etc is important in the jobs that they do so that the children understand the importance of National Curriculum subjects in any job, not just highly skilled careers. ”

Teacher Feedback

