



Case study

Case Study on St James Church of England Infant School's Work Simulation Day

Aims:

- > Raise Aspirations.
- > Help children use their creativity, communication and problem solving skills.
- > Involve the whole school with a range of work simulations.

Our Future Derby Programme

As part of the Derby Opportunity Area DfE funded programme, St James Church of England Infant School requested a whole school 'Work Simulation Day' linking into their annual Careers Week. The Head Teacher, who is also the school's Career's Related Learning Champion planned and co-ordinated the day with the Our Future Derby delivery team. A range of different work simulation activities were planned to explore job roles in news reporting, engineering and first aid.

St James Infants is a small inner-city school, with a diverse range of pupils. The school has one class per year, with many of the pupils coming from disadvantaged backgrounds.

Recruiting Careers Volunteers

The event was posted onto the Primary Futures Portal to secure 'Career Volunteers' to support the day. (<https://educationandemployersprogrammes.force.com/>) The volunteers included a female Sky Television Customer Service Assistant, a male Medic/Engineer/Navy Officer, a female Learner Recruitment Advisor and a female Business Advisor. These Volunteers tied in amazingly well to the work simulations we had planned!

Delivery Day

Upon arrival at the school, the Our Future Derby team and the Career Volunteers were greeted by the Head Teacher dressed as a Nurse. Three 'work simulation stations' were set up in the hall with equipment for the children to use such as a green screen and clapper board for the news reporter; bandages, medical tape and slings for the first aiders and bridge building materials for the engineers.

Delivery Day CONTINUED:

The children took part in the activities two classes at a time. Each session started with an introduction to the visitors and a discussion around the eight key skills that Our Future Derby focuses on (visit www.skillsbuilder.org/ for more information on these skills). We then held a short question and answer session with the Career Volunteers before splitting the children into three groups to rotate around the activity stations.

The children were all in non-uniform costumes, dressed up as their future job roles. This worked well as the children were already excited and willing to share what they wished to be when they were older. The job roles varied, with one being 'I wish to be a Daddy when I'm older' to more conventional and non-conventional career choices of Youtuber, Police Officer, Nurse, Doctor and Teacher.

Dream job roles explored.



The Outcome:

With the support of the teachers, every single one of the 130 pupils got involved with the activities, from the youngest Nursery cohort to the Year 2's.

A range of fascinating careers were explored, and the children got a taster of what each job entailed, in an interactive manner. It was amazing seeing how engaged the teachers and pupils were, with everyone dressed up as their dream jobs. This led to a positive atmosphere, lots of fun and high levels of engagement with the entire school. The eight key skills were put into real life practice, with explicit links being formulated throughout the workshops. Effective communication was important throughout the day by presenting information and listening. This was an emphasised element of the news reporting workshop. Creativity and problem solving were the key focus of the first aid, engineering and bridge building activities.

Feedback from the day:

Careers Champion Feedback - *'Thank you for a great day! The children really enjoyed the work simulations. The aims of the day and skills were explained clearly. It was fantastic to have a whole school event!'*

Engineer Volunteer Feedback - *'I am grateful that you included me in the St James school's events. I learned that the results of a practical task are just as important to the participants as it is for the instructor. I have good memories of the children building the block bridge and working together, this I will keep.'*

Sky Customer Service Volunteer Feedback - *'Thank you for inviting me to be part of this day. I had a wonderful time explaining Sky Televisions role in the media and loved seeing how you had real equipment such as green screens and bandages. The day was really fun, interactive and engaging. You adapted the day to the younger children's understanding. It worked really well with Year 1 and 2.'*

ATEM Recruitment Advisor Volunteer Feedback - *'The Our Future Derby project is inspiring the next generation to be the best they can be. You are doing a great job! We were honoured to support the school engagement team by attending St James Infants school recently. We enjoyed supporting the children through play & fun activities including recording a news report using the green screen, building our very own bridges and first aid simulation. These activities helped the children to develop confidence, an understanding of construction, and an awareness of first aid. It also got them thinking about their individual aspirations. It's never too early to start thinking about what you want to be when you grow up! and we helped deliver the message that with hard work they can achieve anything!'*