

Improving employability

How **small businesses** can work with schools and colleges to improve young people's employability skills

Why should I take an interest in young people's education?

Opportunity to: investigate local potential recruits, e.g. through apprenticeships; shape employability skills; pass on enthusiasm for my sector; develop tomorrow's workforce; influence teaching to make it relevant to the local economy.

What am I going to get out of the relationship?

Opportunity to: meet potential apprentices; get involved in the local community; be promoted in the school e.g. logos on the website or around the school; benefit from better-informed recruits.

What different ways are there to get involved?

You could: take part in a careers education activity; support a course project or mock interviews; host workplace visits, work experience or teacher placements; advise on the curriculum; become a school governor.

How much time will this take?

It's up to you: the commitment could be one hour a week, a month, a year, or a few weeks. Your choice! Advance planning is recommended - schools and colleges work to different schedules to the world of work.

How do I make it happen?

Contact your local school or college, or inspiringthefuture.org; identify your key contact and use these five questions to guide an initial discussion.

www.nfer.ac.uk/employability



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How **schools and colleges** can work with small businesses to improve young people's employability skills

What will our young people gain?

Improved employability skills; access to and awareness of the world of work, especially SMEs (the largest group of employers in the economy); opportunities for work experience and apprenticeships; smoother transition to employment; better careers information; improved student commitment to their studies.

What will our school/college gain?

More outward focus; staff awareness of diversity of jobs; fulfilment of careers guidance duty; better understanding of real workplace skills.

How can employers get involved?

In many ways, as a school governor; providing more relevant project work; workplace visits; work experience; student mentoring; career talks; teacher placements; mock interviews; supporting employability activities; building relationships with local employers.

How much time will this take?

Time needed will vary, but it is important to agree timescales and aim to build long-term relationships. Advance planning is recommended - businesses are driven by different schedules to schools and education.

How do I make it happen?

Contact your local SMEs directly or inspiringthefuture.org; consider parent and/or governor business networks; identify your key contact and use these five questions to guide an initial discussion.

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