



Involving students and staff in work-related learning

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Key issues in schools' KS4 work-related learning provision

- Students find it hard to recognise examples of their work-related learning
- Not enough staff know much about the school's work-related learning provision

OFSTED reports often indicate these issues.



The three strands of work-related learning

- Through work
- About work
- For work



Why should students record and review their WRL?

- Because it reinforces what they have experienced and learned – helps them to put it into words
- Because they can then summarise it easily for their Progress Files and interviews
- Because the feedback it generates is useful to the school in monitoring its WRL provision



What areas of KS4 WRL should be recorded?

- Include these where relevant to your school:
 - Block work experience
 - Extended work experience
 - Part-time work
 - Work shadowing
 - Careers education and guidance
 - Enterprise days, events or activities
 - Industry days



What areas of WRL should be recorded? (continued, 2)

- Contact with employers
 - Visits out to the world of work
 - Visitors from world of work into class
 - Interviewing or questioning an employer
- Looking at rights & responsibilities at work
- Learning about health & safety issues
- Seeing videos about jobs or careers
- Extra-curricular activities
- Community projects



What areas of WRL should be recorded? (continued, 3)

- Recording key skills evidence
- Recognising / analysing personal qualities
- Working on Progress File
- Mock interviews
- Real interviews
- Comparing jobs, old and new
- Personal finance lessons
- Economic and business understanding



Recording WRL from subjects

The range of work-related learning in subject lessons could be divided up this way:

- from Core subjects
- from Vocational subjects
- from other exam subjects
- from PSHCE
- from College courses /work-based learning



Create your student record sheets

- Explain key learning objectives for any WRL event – use evaluation sheets for major events e.g. work experience, enterprise days
- Create a checklist or questionnaire to cover your whole range of KS4 WRL activities
- Trial with students; amend from feedback; bear in mind the QCA student questionnaire sheet
- Use the finalised sheets in PSHCE or form time about twice a year



Create a teacher's version

- Some teachers will feel more confident if a teacher's "answer version" is in their grasp
- Link the aspects in your student recording sheets to the QCA WRL Framework codes - all 9 elements should be covered
- Link them also to "Every Child Matters".
WRL contributes most to these strands:-
 - "Make a Positive Contribution"
 - "Achieve Economic Well-being"
 - "Stay Safe" (a small part)



Involving all subject staff in WRL

- Teachers of vocational subjects will be familiar with many aspects of WRL
- All other subjects should contribute some WRL opportunities at KS4
- HoDs need to consult with whole department
- WRL links should be annotated in the KS4 schemes of work



Subject contributions

- Examples in English
 - Skills of reading, writing, speaking, listening, presentation and debate (oral skills reinforced in drama)
 - Work experience summary, oral / written
 - Students meet poet, author, journalist, etc
 - Theatre visits
 - School newspaper project
 - Participation in school play production



More subject contributions

■ Examples in Maths

- Numerical skills, essential for work and life
- Personal finance, profit and loss, banking, interest rates
- Creating or analysing statistics, e.g. survey results or car sales or insurance figures
- Students meet a surveyor, accountant, etc
- Maths challenges, problem solving tasks
- Stock market simulation



More subject contributions

- Examples in Science
 - Investigational skills, ie.planning, research, practical and drawing conclusions
 - The science behind hazards (in lab and at workplace)
 - Visit science at work or scientists visit class
 - Study of electrical or oil industry or energy resources or environmental science, etc
 - Survey of energy usage by the school
 - Applications of science in medicine



More subject contributions

- Examples in PSHCE
 - Work experience: preparation / implementation and follow-up
 - Careers advice & guidance, including computerised programs
 - Rights & responsibilities and equal opps
 - Review of personal qualities, key skills, achievements, targets (Progress File)
 - Personal finance and economic awareness
 - CV writing, mock interviews



More subject contributions

■ Examples in ICT

- ICT skills essential in 21st century jobs
- Evaluate the use of ICT at placements
- Health & Safety and ICT
- Use of technical terms
- Use market research & redesign websites
- Meet or work with ICT work personnel
- Changes happening in world of work



More subject contributions

■ Examples in DT

- Skills of planning, making and evaluating
- Replication of industrial processes in class
- Use of technical terms
- Visits out to see DT in action
- Visitors in, re design briefs or jobs
- Enterprise challenges, making & selling products



More subject contributions

■ Examples in humanities

- Skills of research and analysis of evidence
- The different types of industry and their locations (Geog)
- Analysis of people's rights (RE)
- Effects of unemployment, e.g the Great Depression (Hist)
- Visiting speakers in humanity topic areas



More subject contributions

■ Examples in MFL

- Study of jobs & attributes needed for them
- Use WExp summary as focus of mock oral
- “At Home” unit includes spending habits
- Prepare CV and letter of application in MFL
- Meet linguists who talk about their careers
- French cuisine day (Enterprise)



More subject contributions

- Examples in Arts subjects
 - Life study of famous artists/ musicians, etc
 - School drama or music productions
 - Workshops with performers or artists
 - Contact with artists or musicians or actors
 - Visit art gallery or concert hall and note jobs done
 - Perform live and cope with criticism



More subject contributions

- Examples in Physical Education
 - Learn coaching skills in JSLA
 - Visit leisure centres, see jobs done
 - Work with visiting PE/ sport specialists
 - Work with hygienists, physiotherapists
 - Organise sports day for primaries
 - Undertake survey on attitudes to sport



More subject contributions

- WRL in vocational subjects –Extensive!
 - e.g. Business St includes case studies on business practices, plus visits & enterprise activities
 - e.g. Media St has obvious links with the media world and tasks like film-making
 - Applied GCSEs have many distinct WRL activities, which should be itemised



Other good practices to promote - 1

- Make good use of QCA subject case study examples
- Encourage all departmental staff to investigate own personal links with industry
- Seek out former students with relevant career experiences for a particular subject



Other good practices to promote -2

- Specialist schools should encourage their sponsors to support KS4 WRL
- Maintain a whole-staff “log” of all KS4 visits out and visitors in
- Include a WRL section in the school planner