

Employer Encounters – Suggested Activities

Meaningful interactions with people from the world of work are a fantastic way to help children and their families discover and reflect upon the exciting range of career options available both locally and beyond. Providing children with the opportunity to meet diverse role models and learn about different opportunities and pathways can inspire them for the future.

There are several different activities that can be delivered as part of an employer encounter.

Activity type	Impact on students	Description	Preparation and delivery
Curriculum based project	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Plan a project in collaboration with employer(s) - Area of curriculum taught through links to the world of work - Employers may also support classroom delivery 	Collaborative planning and delivery 60 minutes
Themed days e.g., whole school Careers Day	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Use a national themed week/day or charity fundraiser to focus on job roles and/or skills - Invite volunteers to bring their world of work to classroom learning as part of a topic hook/outcome 	60 – 90 minutes
Whole school challenge	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Collaborate with an employer to set a challenge related to sector skills and link to a specific subject or topic - May follow a virtual/in-person visit from an employer - Children could film or present their solutions to an employer for feedback 	Collaborative planning and delivery 30 – 90 minutes
In-class presentation	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Visitor speaks to the class, virtually or in person, 'I love my job'. - Could be an activity for first thing so employer can deliver on their way to work - Impactful and less time consuming for the employer - Employer could include a hands-on task promoting skills for the workplace 	20 – 30 minutes

Activity type	Impact on students	Description	Preparation and delivery
Off-site visits	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Include careers focus as part of an already planned off-site visit - Collaborate with trip provider prior to visit to ensure they are aware of expectations and prepared - Set children a challenge prior to the visit – how many jobs can see you? What skills are involved? What jobs might be behind the scenes? 	20 – 30 minutes
Gatecrash the Lesson	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Collaborate with an employer to deliver a lesson objective through a workplace scenario/task - Could link to subject skills e.g., data collection and presentation to solve a problem/answer a brief 	Collaborative planning and delivery 30 – 60 minutes
Assembly talk	Medium/High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Visitor talks during school assembly/PSHE lesson - Include a demonstration to include props - Ensure time for children's questions - Could be a standalone visit, linked to curriculum or a larger event 	20 – 30 minutes
Workplace visit	Medium/High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Group/class of children visiting from a couple of hours to a full day - Provide children with general overview of the company and wider industry, familiarise them with working environment and guidance on how could one day get into the industry - Opportunity to take part in interactive activities 	60 minutes +
Panel Q&A	Medium/High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Try 'What's My Line?' assembly - Children can ask questions - Could be different jobs within one sector e.g., healthcare - Visitors spend time with individual classes to enable children to ask questions in more informal setting - Classes could share knowledge with each other in presentations or displays around school 	30 minutes

Activity type	Impact on students	Description	Preparation and delivery
Teach the Teachers	Medium/High	- Employer helps to develop staff understanding of different sectors and the local labour market through presentations/workplace visits	Scheduling and liaising with employer 30 minutes +
Careers Carousel	Medium/High	- Children speak to volunteers in small groups about their job/career for 5 – 10 minutes then children rotate to next volunteer - Ensure follow up with children once activity taken place to identify learning and skills	Various 60 – 120 minutes
'Professionals Week'	Medium/High	- Invite parents keen to talk about their job into school - Parents encouraged to bring photos of people doing their job and give a practical demonstration of what they do. - Outline skills required to do the role - Consider as an opportunity to challenge stereotypes through briefing with parents prior to activity	Various 1 week in duration 30 – 120 minutes

Adapted from a resource produced by Careers Hub Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly