

Seaford Head School

Achieving Excellence Together



Work Experience Policy

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1. Introduction

Work experience is an integral part of Seaford Head School students' entitlement to CEIAG (Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance) and this clearly supports Gatsby Benchmark 6 "Experiences of Workplaces" which states: Every pupil should have first-hand experiences of the workplace through work visits, work shadowing and/or work experience to help their exploration of career opportunities and expand their networks.

Work experience gives young people vital insights into the world of work, encourages them to aspire to great things, and helps them to prepare for their future. It bridges the gap between school, college and work and helps young people make decisions about their future and develop new and existing skills.

The opportunity to participate in work experience is provided to all students in Year 10 & Year 12. Students are encouraged to find placements linked to career paths that suit their interests, skills and strengths with the absence of stereotypes, which are actively challenged. Students with Special Educational Needs or Disability (SEND), or any other additional needs, will be supported appropriately through liaison with parents and relevant staff i.e. the Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENCO) and the placement provider.

2. Our aims

Work experience should:

- Enhance students' knowledge of the world of work
- Develop students' employability skills
- Provide an insight into the skills, qualities and attitudes required by particular sectors and employers
- Provide opportunities for personal and social development – including self-confidence, time management, personal organisation and resilience
- Help prepare students for the world of work
- Enable students to make cross-curricular links
- Support the school's CEIAG provision
- Provide students with an opportunity for self-evaluation

3. Provision

The opportunity of work experience is available for Year 10 students in Term 3 and for Year 12 students in Term 6.

4. Management and co-ordination

Seaford Head School works with the East Sussex County Council Work Experience team who provide the following service in accordance with S105-1 Work Experience: Health and Safety Assessment and Support:

- Access to an online database of employers across Sussex
- Work placement health and safety assessments undertaken on behalf of the school
- Ongoing support for work experience coordinators, including database training, three meetings per year and access to guidance and paperwork online
- Management, investigation and collation of data for all reported accidents and incidents that occur during a work placement.

5. Safety considerations

The HSE guidance for work experience and placements is invaluable and should be shared with staff and placement providers. It can be found at:

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/youngpeople/workexperience/index.htm>

6. Considerations for School

“[For] those organising placements, [they] should simply ask sensible questions, in proportion to the level of risk, to satisfy themselves that those arrangements are in place. They should not be second-guessing employers’ risk assessments or requiring additional paperwork. This means that schools do not need to complete extensive health and safety checks or risk assessments of their own, nor do they need to hire third parties to do so.” HSE Guidance on Work Experience.

7. Considerations for the placement provider

Under HSE guidance (the Health and Safety (Training for Employment) Regulations 1990), students on work experience are treated as employees for health and safety purposes. The placement provider has the same duty of care to the students as it does to its own employees. The provider must ensure that any young person on placement is protected from any risks which are a consequence of their lack of experience or an absence of awareness of existing or potential risks or the fact that a young person has not fully matured. An employers’ existing workplace risk assessments may already cover the risks that work experience students may be exposed to. Their existing Employer’s Liability Insurance will cover such placements.

8. Communicating risks to students Placement providers will be asked to carry out an appropriate workplace induction, which may include undertaking risk assessments with students, in accordance with the HSE guidance:

- For placements in low-risk environments, such as offices or shops, with everyday risks that will mostly be familiar to the student, we consider that existing arrangements for other employees should suffice.
- For environments with risks less familiar to the student (e.g. in light assembly or packing facilities), we will ask the placement provider to make arrangements to manage the risks. We

consider this should include induction, supervision, site familiarisation, and any protective equipment needed.

- For a placement in a higher-risk environment such as construction, agriculture and manufacturing we will ask the provider to consider what work the student will be doing or observing, the risks involved and how these are managed and to satisfy themselves that the instruction, training and supervisory arrangements have been properly thought through and that they work in practice.
- In addition to this, we will ask that the risk assessments take into account the student's potential inexperience, lack of awareness of risks and their stage of development. Where it is appropriate to do so, relevant information (such as a care plan) may be sent to the employer to allow them to consider how best to provide safe methods of working. The advice of the SENCO, Head of Year and other relevant staff shall be sought in such cases before information is sent from the school.

Briefing our students in school:

- The school will deliver an assembly, prior to the students going out on placement, which reiterates the importance of work experience and its benefits. This assembly will also be used to explain about health and safety in the workplace and confirm the procedure for raising any health and safety, as well as safeguarding, concerns.
- The school will reinforce these messages in the final few days before the students go out on placement, through the pastoral system (tutor time). We request that the placement provider brief students on their first day of induction on health and safety; how to identify hazards and control measures that can be put in place to reduce the risk of injury or accident.

9. Safeguarding our students

Guidance from the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) and the Department for Education in "Keeping Children Safe in Education" states:

- Under 16s: DBS checks cannot be conducted, but barred list checks may be required for supervisors if they work alone with the pupil and provide frequent supervision (e.g., more than three days in a 30-day period)
- Ages 16 and Over: o For placements in specified settings (e.g., schools, children's homes, childcare premises), providers should consider whether an enhanced DBS check is necessary.
- Government guidance recommends enhanced DBS checks for students in Health Care or Early Years placements, allowing time for processing.

Safeguarding Responsibilities:

- Placement providers must have policies to protect children from harm.
- Enhanced DBS checks with barred list information cannot be requested for staff supervising 16–17-year-olds on work experience. o If a 16+ student's placement involves contact with

children in a school, an enhanced DBS check may be required. All placement providers receive safeguarding guidance before placements begin (see Appendix 1).

10. Monitoring and evaluation

All students who access the work experience programme will be asked to evaluate and reflect on their experiences immediately after they return from their placements. This will take place through, but will not necessarily be limited to, a work experience journal and formal evaluation booklet and other reflective work through the pastoral system. In addition, the work experience programme is reviewed by the Head of Sixth Form (Careers Lead) and the Careers Adviser responsible for work experience. This review is based on evidence from students and placement providers and will be presented to the SLT and the Governors as part of the CEIAG reporting procedures.

The review will:

- Consider the extent to which the programme meets the stated aims.
- Consider any health and safety issues that have arisen, including from the induction provided.
- Calculate the percentage of students arranging their own placement.
- Calculate the percentage of students completing a placement.
- Consider reasons for failure to complete a placement.
- Identify areas for improvement, which will be incorporated into the CEIAG development plan.

Appendix 1 Safeguarding Work Experience Guidance and Procedure

Employer Guidance:

Positive role models:

During the work experience, the employer acts in a mentor capacity and therefore needs to act as an appropriate role model with due regard for appropriate conduct with learners, it is therefore important to:

- Act as an appropriate role model.
- Value a learner's contributions and opinions.
- Encourage them to reach their desired goal.
- Listen to the learner and discuss relevant topics.

It is also important that work experience supervisors are not put in a vulnerable position, so it is suggested that where possible liaison with learners should:

- Take place in an open space with other people present where possible.
- Be within appropriate working hours.
- Consider if questions asked about personal or family life are of an appropriate nature

Disclosure from a learner:

If you have concerns about the protection of a young person you are working with (for example something the learner has said) then immediately contact the school and speak to either the senior member of staff responsible for child protection or the Careers Leader.