



CASE STUDY:

St Stephen's Primary School and Children's Centre

National Careers Week

NCW

 @CAREERSWEEK

INSPIRING STUDENTS

Inspiring Children and Parents into Aspirational Careers From an Early Age.



SCHOOL/ORGANISATION

St Stephen's Primary School and Children's Centre



REGION OF THE UK

Newham, East London



TYPE OF SCHOOL/ORGANISATION

Primary

INTRODUCTION

We passionately believe that children should leave school as confident, respectful people who will contribute positively to the community and seek a career that will bring them happiness, fulfilment and economic wellbeing.

It is important that both children and their parents are educated early about the importance of careers and future planning. By holding an annual 'Careers Day' and careers evenings we encourage children and parents to think about their aspirations and future goals. This includes inviting a range of top professionals to inspire parents and children and show them the opportunities available beyond the local community.

GATSBY BENCHMARKS



A Stable
Careers
Programme



Learning from
Career &
Labour Market
Information



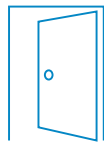
Addressing
The Needs of
Each Pupil



Linking
Curriculum
Learning
to Careers



Encounters
with Employers
& Employees



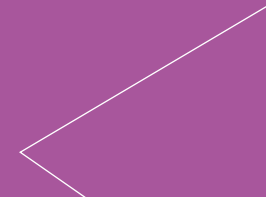
Experiences
of Workplaces



Encounters
with Further &
Higher
Education



Personal
Guidance



OVERVIEW

Our aim for Careers Day is to inspire both children and parents to think about aspirational careers from an early age. As a whole a school we believe that having children who are able to talk about their aspirations and future plans, is just as important as academic success. Time and resources are allocated to ensure that the event can be planned and organised to ensure maximum impact. The planning and organisation of the day happens a term before the event to ensure we are able to organise it in detail and offer bespoke careers advice to all year groups.

CONTEXT

'Careers Day' is organised for the whole school from day-care to Year 6. We are a mixed, multicultural school in East London. It takes place as part of our wider curriculum which encourages children to aspire and teaches them the skills they will require for future workplaces.

Through our parents' meetings we realised that there was a need to inform and challenge parents to think about life beyond the classroom. We wanted them to realise that decisions made now can influence their children's future prospects and to look beyond the local community and investigate their children's future career opportunities.

RESOURCES

We worked with 'National Careers Week' to help plan our event. We met with Janet who has a wealth of knowledge and contacts. Our headteacher was actively supportive in ensuring that time and resources needed to plan the day were made available. We were asked to give regular updates in SMT meetings to ensure the day was planned thoroughly to ensure maximum impact.

The lasting legacy of aspirations through the school mean that the effort and energy put in is worth it. Children have become much more focused and aspirational in their pursuit of education and future careers.

BENEFITS

We invite professionals from a range of career paths so that parents and children can see the possibilities they have. It shows them that a career isn't set in stone and no one can predict exactly what they will be. It allows our parents to become engaged and supportive of their children. Most importantly it allows the children to be knowledgeable about a range of different careers and the changing workplace so they can shape their own future. We are not only educating the children about future careers but engaging early with their parents so it is a joint journey.

ISSUES

The most difficult aspect is finding the right speakers. We want engaging speakers, able to motivate and inspire. We start planning as early as September.

As a primary school it be difficult to make contacts outside our community so we use the knowledge and connections of staff to find some of our guests. For other speakers we are bold and aim high. Children are encouraged to write letters to invite speakers. We have found that being daring about approaching people can be surprisingly rewarding and often if someone is not able to help they will know someone who can.

EVALUATION

Surveys are given to parents, teachers and pupils. From these surveys we have seen a positive attitude towards the careers event with parents commenting that it is “great that it has started discussions about their child’s future.” We use this information to plan for next year.

This approach is not just about the school or pupils, it encompasses the whole school and the wider community. We recommend this approach to others. It shows the children there is more to life than being a footballer or fireman. Deliver a career day that is age-focused so ensure all ages have access.

UPDATES

The staff love how engaged the children become and how they discuss the possibilities of different careers. We have moved away from just wanting to be doctors and policemen and as the children carry on through the school their aspirations have increased. They want to be something more. One parent approached us after the evening even and said how much they had appreciated the opportunity and wished that she had been able to do something similar when she was at school as it would have encouraged her parents to be more open to new ideas.

National Careers Week

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