



**VALE OF EVESHAM
SCHOOL**
Learning For Life

**Worcestershire Careers Hub
Member School**

The Vale of Evesham School

SCHOOL CAREERS STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN

**Feb 2023 to
June 2025**



Worcestershire
Local Enterprise Partnership

**The Vale of Evesham School
is an active member of the
Worcestershire Careers Hub
and supports the development
of Worcestershire's Future
Workforce through the
Worcestershire
Enterprise Adviser Network**



The Vale of Evesham School CAREERS STRATEGY

Contents	
Purpose and aims	4
Background	5
The Careers Strategy	6
The Gatsby Benchmarks	6
Careers Hubs	6
Strategic Careers Leaders	8
Our Careers Team	8
Our Enterprise Adviser	9
Our Current Position	9
Our Objectives	11
Our Action Plan	14
Provider Policy	23
Useful Links / Resources	25

CAREERS STRATEGY

Purpose and aims

The Vale of Evesham School is fully committed to ensuring that all of our students acquire the skills, knowledge and attitudes to manage their learning and career progression.

The Vale of Evesham School has already established a range of effective careers guidance activities which we hope will guide support our students to achieve positive destinations such as A 'levels, Higher Education, Apprenticeships, Technical routes or Employment.

This careers strategy sets out The Vale of Evesham School key approaches internally and externally to enhance the current careers guidance activities and participation opportunities already available to our students. The aim is to ensure that students are fully prepared for and informed effectively about their next steps and can therefore aspire to achieve their full potential. We want to ensure that our students have both the aptitude and interpersonal skills to effectively communicate and add value within the workplace.

The school will collaborate throughout this strategy with a range of external agencies to help us ensure we will meet all of the mandatory requirements contained within the Department for Education's new careers strategy. These partnerships will include working alongside The Careers and Enterprise Company (CEC), The Worcestershire Local Enterprise Partnership (WLEP), Worcestershire County Council (WCC), Further Education (FE) and Higher Education (HE) providers, Worcestershire Apprenticeships (WA) and a wide range of local employers.

High quality careers guidance is a crucial part of improving social mobility. Young people make choices based on what they know and what they think is available to them. If our young people are made fully aware of the career pathways and opportunities available to them, they will be more able to make informed choices about which qualifications and career pathways which will enable them to achieve their goals.

This strategy outlines our whole school approach to delivering careers guidance to all of our students throughout their journey through education. Careers activity will therefore take place across years 7 through to year 13 as part of the mandatory requirements set by Department for Education and contained within the Gatsby Benchmarks.

Background Information



The Careers and Enterprise Company was set up in 2015 to transform careers and enterprise provision in schools and colleges across England.

The Careers and Enterprise Company had an initial remit to improve employer engagement, through the creation of the Enterprise Adviser Network and support

schools to

increase the delivery of activities which would help them build long lasting employer relationships (Gatsby

Benchmarks 5 and 6).

Worcestershire's Enterprise Adviser Network



The Worcestershire Local Enterprise Partnership (WLEP) and Worcestershire County Council, through their contract with the Careers and Enterprise Company, has been delivering the Worcestershire Enterprise Adviser Network (WEAN) since January 2017 and has placed business leaders within schools to support them with the facilitation of careers related activity and support their achievement of Benchmarks 5 and

6.

Worcestershire was one of the first LEP areas in England to be awarded a central contract with the Careers and Enterprise Company and has been seen as an influential area as the Enterprise Adviser networks were being developed across England.

The WLEP has been leading the way nationally regarding network performance since the delivery of this initiative began and was delighted to become the first LEP area in the country to secure 100% participation from their education establishments. (50x)

The WLEP was also instrumental in demonstrating the need for total inclusion. The WEAN was one of the first areas in the country to also ensure that ALL of our Special Schools and PRU's were allowed to participate within the initiative.

To date Worcestershire has recruited 70+ Enterprise Advisers and assigned each of them to schools participating within the initiative.

In September 2017, due to the success of the WEAN, the WLEP were given permission to develop and deliver a Middle School Pilot and work with 15 schools covering Wychavon, Redditch and Bromsgrove.

The Careers Strategy



**Careers strategy:
making the most of
everyone's skills and
talents**

December 2017

In December 2017 the governments Department for Education launched the latest version of their "Careers Strategy". This new strategy places the Careers and Enterprise Company at the heart of driving forward careers provision for young people. Their enhanced role is to act as a catalyst in the fragmented landscape of careers and enterprise, supporting programmes that work, filling gaps in provision and ensuring coverage across the entire country.

This new strategy adopted the Gatsby Benchmarks, which were originally developed by the Gatsby Foundation in 2014 by the Gatsby Charitable Foundation. These benchmarks were based on international research and helped identify best practice and guidance for education establishments in order for them to deliver high quality careers guidance to young people across England. These benchmarks have also formally been adopted by OFSTED and will now form

part of their school inspection process.

The Eight Gatsby Benchmarks of Good Career Guidance are:

- 1) A stable careers programme
- 2) Learning from career and labour market information
- 3) Addressing the needs of each pupil
- 4) Linking curriculum learning to careers
- 5) Encounters with employers and employees
- 6) Experience of workplaces
- 7) Encounters with further higher education

8) Personal guidance

Careers Hubs

Since October 2015, the Gatsby Charitable Foundation, in partnership with the Careers and Enterprise Company, has also been running a Careers Hub pilot in the North East Local Enterprise Partnership area. This Careers Hub pilot was put in place to build on the support provided through the Enterprise Adviser Networks to achieve benchmarks 5 and 6 and support schools / colleges to achieve all eight of the Gatsby Benchmarks.

Following the conclusion of this pilot the Department for Education's Careers Strategy has requested that the Careers and Enterprise Company scale up this model by establishing 20 more Careers Hubs across the country, based on the North East Pilot model.

What is a Careers Hub?

A Careers Hub is a group of between 20 and 40 secondary schools / colleges / SEN Schools located in the same geographical area, working with universities, other education and training providers, employers and career guidance professionals to ensure that ALL the Gatsby Benchmarks are delivered in each school and college within the Hub and that careers outcomes are improved for all young people. Schools and colleges within the Hub should have a shared vision of how they will work together to improve outcomes for the young people in their area.

Worcestershire Careers Hub

In July 2018 the Worcestershire LEP, in partnership with Worcestershire County Council were successful in their bid for Worcestershire to be awarded "Careers Hub" status by the Careers and Enterprise Company.

The Worcestershire LEP will develop a careers Hub which will contain the maximum number of 40 educational establishments. The "Hub" delivery team over the next 2 years will work with member schools to ensure not only are they meeting the mandatory requirements set out within the Department for Education's Careers Strategy, achieve all eight of the Gatsby Benchmarks but will ensure that Worcestershire students will receive

an increased number of employer encounters and activities which will in turn prepare them for the world of work.

The delivery team will continue to build on the success of our showcase careers event the Worcestershire Skills Show, support the promotion of the apprenticeship agenda working with our partner Worcestershire Apprenticeships, and ensure that ALL schools provide students with the opportunity to meet with FE / HE providers and universities to ensure they can continue to make informed choices about which educational and vocational pathways are open to them.

Work will also continue to expand the range of information available to students, parents, employers and teachers through the "Skills4Worcestershire" careers signposting website.



Strategic Careers Leader

As set out within the Department for Education's Careers Strategy, The Vale of Evesham School is required to have a designated member of our Senior Leadership Team named as our school's Strategic Careers Lead.

The Strategic Careers Lead will have the responsibility to make sure that we as a school meet our mandatory requirements and are achieving all eight of the Gatsby Benchmarks.

The Vale of Evesham School has agreed to undertake this role.

The Vale of Evesham School will provide both the Head Teacher and the board of governors with regular updates on our progress and will work closely with the Worcestershire LEP delivery team, our assigned Enterprise Adviser and local employers to ensure we deliver this strategy.

Our Careers Team

The Vale of Evesham School Senior Leadership Team will provide strategic oversight, support and guidance to members of staff delivering the Careers Strategy in liaison with Central Learning Partnership Trust Careers Advisor: Lyndesay Neales 01386 443367 careers@clpt.co.uk

Our Enterprise Advisor



Name: Adrian Mansfield

Organisation: Blue Bay Alliance

Role: Business owner & Recruitment lead

An experienced recruitment leader who has worked globally delivering best-in-class recruitment. Passionate about growing the next leaders in recruitment.

Adrian has over 20 years of recruiting internationally in that time he has run his own business, headed companies listed on the stock market & set up new international divisions for recruitment firms. Adrian has a wealth of knowledge and contacts to support Vale of Evesham School with their employer, careers and destinations education and opportunities.

Current position at The Vale of Evesham School

Students are currently receiving the following careers related support or participating within the activities listed below during their journey through school:

Reception – Y6:

Pupils explore working life through age-appropriate activities including play, role-play and subject based learning. They begin to learn skills and attitudes which are relevant to the workplace – eg planning, co-operating, communicating, following instructions, showing leadership, being proactive and resilient. They take part in visits to their local community where they interact with people who are at work. Members of the community also come into the school to provide an opportunity for learning about different jobs.

Each pupil has an Annual Review of their Education, Health and Care Plan which provides a forum for the pupil's route towards adulthood to be discussed.

Y7 – Y9:

In years 7 – 8 we develop a range of age-appropriate skills that prepare our young people for life after school and their individual journeys. We strive to develop resilience, independence and realistic aspirations that our young people can aspire to and feel motivated to improve. This will lead to preparation for the work place or other life experiences. In year 9 we have devoted part of the curriculum to Work Related learning where we address the skills and range of employment opportunities in depth. The year nines work closely with the careers department and outside providers, developing communication skills e.g., mock interviews and other relevant skills in preparation for the World of Work.

The EHCP plan is reviewed annually and routes for after school are discussed and in year nine a Transition Review is held where our 'Careers Team' meet with the parents/carers in the young person's EHCP Meeting.

Y10 - Y14:

Students access Careers and Enterprise learning in the following ways:

- Weekly timetabled "Work Related Learning" sessions or Careers and access to the Job Explorer Database (JED).
- Work experience tailored to an individual student's needs and interests. This can be in an annual one-week block or as a series of shorter, regular sessions. Some students can access this independently, others are supported by school staff, and some students explore the world of work through focussed group tasks that take them into workplace situations.
- A planned series of encounters with employers either through students visiting workplaces or by employers coming in to school.
- Enterprise opportunities and projects devised by students, staff and our Enterprise Advisor.
- Regular meetings with the careers team.
- Through the Annual Review of the Education, Health and Car Plan which provides a forum for the pupil's route towards adulthood to be discussed and changes to provision to be requested.
- College link – an opportunity for 6th Form students to attend a local college for one morning each week in order to explore the options available for school leavers.
- Attending careers fairs and "Life Beyond School" events.
- Visiting colleges, training providers and other post-school provisions.
- Volunteering experiences through Duke of Edinburgh

Destination information

Our Careers Advisors record where the students transition to on leaving Vale of Evesham and also keep the Local Authority informed of these destinations. Depending on the home address of the students some of the destinations include the local colleges within the county; HOW college in Worcester and Redditch and Warwickshire College Group (Evesham, Pershore and Malvern). We have also had students move onto Specialist provision (some residential) such as Derwen, National Star, The Glasshouse , William Morris, Foxes Academy. There are also some students who prefer to move onto a training provider and undertake a traineeship with Mencap. Some students access providers through their social care budget. These may involve opportunities such as Corran Dean, Where Next, Working World or The Freedom Centre, either solely or alongside a college placement. We also have some students that move onto supported living placements when they leave school as well as accessing some of the above and/or have individual support to access an individual programme of activities. The Careers Advisors will work closely with Young Adults Team when appropriate. The Careers Advisors contact all leavers and their families in the Autumn Term to check they have settled into the new placement and will continue to support in the early days of transition.

Teaching staff contribute to the delivery of careers guidance through:

- Delivering structured Careers and “Work Related Learning” lessons and activities
- Supporting enterprise activities
- Organising employer visits during classroom lessons
- Organising and supporting work experience sessions

Local Employers contribute to the delivery of careers guidance through:

- Providing work experience opportunities
- Contributing to assemblies and Careers/WRL lessons
- Providing to “Employer Encounters” for students
- Contributing to careers and transition events like the “Life Beyond School” event

Parents contribute to the delivery of careers guidance through:

- Supporting student engagement by arranging work experience
- Sharing employment related links

Our Objectives for 2023 to 2025

1. A Stable Careers Programme

- To ensure the careers programme is delivered by individuals with the right skills and experience. The school will, wherever possible, use qualified careers professionals to offer advice and guidance to all or the overwhelming majority of students.
- To enable students to have an understanding of the full range of opportunities available to them, the skills that are valued within the workplace and to have first-hand experience of a work environment.
- To develop and publish a careers programme that will raise the aspirations of all students regardless of academic ability and is tailored to meet their individual needs wherever possible.
- Ensure our Careers Strategy is fully supported by the Senior Leaderships team within schools and is approved by the board of governors
- To ensure there is a clear focus on the activities which support enterprise, employability skills, workplace experiences and qualifications which employers' value.
- Regularly evaluate our careers strategy to determine the impact of our careers related activity based on the feedback provided to us by students, teachers, employers and where appropriate parents.
- To maintain high quality careers provision endorsed by the Careers and Enterprise Company and to review the improvement of our programme by using the Compass evaluation and Tracker tools.

2. Learning from Career and Labour Market Information

- To encourage and increase the use of online careers tools and packages across all year groups. Working with our own careers team, key partners, stakeholders, local and national professional bodies.
- To utilise and then support the development of labour market information to ensure staff and students are informed in their decisions and the advice being given. Work with the Worcestershire LEP and the Careers and Enterprise Company to help establish key priority areas which need to be developed.
- To promote the values of labour market information to parents /carers (where appropriate) to access and understand this information. To investigate careers and opportunities in learning, work ad apprenticeships and how these meet the local and national priorities.

3. Addressing the Needs of the Pupil

- To develop mechanisms to report, track and monitor compliance in relation to the Careers Strategy objectives.
- To develop accurate tracking systems to ensure students are able to keep track of their own journey, record and access the advice they have received and monitor the agreed actions and next steps

- Ensure that a programme of activity takes place which raises the aspirations of all students and challenges stereotypical thinking in terms of equality and gender.
- To ensure that students with particular vulnerabilities and those who are at risk are appropriately supported and identified through close working relationships with the full range of educational and support agencies.
- To ensure that careers guidance for learners with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) is differentiated, where appropriate, and based on high aspirations and a personalised approach. Careers guidance for learners with SEND should be based on the students' own aspirations, abilities and needs.

4. Linking Curriculum Learning to Careers

- To ensure that subject teachers across the whole school support the delivery of careers education and guidance and are able to link the content of curriculum with careers, even in lessons which are not specifically occupation led. Subject specialist staff can be powerful role models to attract students towards their field and the careers that flow from it.
- To integrate national initiatives and project opportunities within the curriculum to enhance that range of careers related activity taking place within school (e.g., Young Enterprise, Code Clubs.)
- To ensure that careers related activity is built in throughout the school year and not just towards the end of any given topic / subject being delivered.
- Specific focus will initially be placed on linking curriculum to careers in English, Maths, Sciences and PHSE lessons.

5. Encounters with Employers and Employees

- To ensure that students receive at least ONE meaningful encounter with and employer during every year they are at school.
- Increase the number of activities which are conducted within school with the support of local employers.
- To ensure that students have the opportunity to improve employability skills and their understanding of and awareness of entrepreneurship
- To enable learners to gain the confidence to compete in the labour market by providing opportunities to gain the practical know-how and attributes that are relevant to gaining employment.
- Develop marketing materials for employers which will help them easily understand the impact of their involvement, the breadth of options available to them and the ways in which they can show they meet their corporate social responsibility.
- Create mechanisms where parents and alumni can express their interest to actively support employer related activity taking place within the school.

- The school will also encourage students and parents to attend careers events such as the Worcestershire Skills Show held annually in March and the Worcestershire Apprenticeship show held annually in October.

6. Experiences of the Workplace

- To ensure that students receive at least ONE meaningful experience of the workplace by the end of year 11
- To ensure that students receive at least ONE further meaningful experience of the workplace during years 12 and 13.
- To increase the number of employer workplace visits which will take place to enable students to gain more of an understanding of the wide range of employment opportunities available within specific industry sectors based in Worcestershire.
- To strengthen our links with local employers and support our Enterprise Adviser to facilitate careers related activity within school

7. Encounters with Further and Higher Education

- Ensure all / overwhelming majority of students receives at least ONE meaningful encounter with Sixth Form Colleges and FE Colleges.
- Ensure all / overwhelming majority of students has been provided with information about the full range of apprenticeships including higher level apprenticeships through the Worcestershire Apprenticeships activity offer.
- Ensure all / overwhelming majority of students have experienced meaningful encounters with universities.

8. Personal Guidance

- Ensure all / overwhelming majority of students have had an interview with a professional and impartial careers adviser by the end of year 11
- Ensure all / overwhelming majority of students has had at least TWO interviews with a professional careers adviser by the end of year 13.

Promotion of Careers related activities

The Vale of Evesham School will encourage the promotion of ALL careers related activity which takes place within the school through the creation of case studies and will share this activity through our school Twitter account and other social media channels.

This careers strategy document along with any case studies documents that are created will be placed on the school's website. These will also be shared with the Worcestershire LEP to be used to promote best practice across ALL careers hub member schools.

This promotion will enable us, and our partner organisations, to be able to capture the evidence we are required to provide both OFSTED and the Careers and Enterprise Company and demonstrate that the activity taking place within our school meets the requirements set out within the Department of Education's Careers strategy.

Measuring and Assessment of the impact of the careers programme on pupils.

Evaluation of our careers programme is designed to enable us to examine what we do, consider how we can improve it and provide stakeholders with a summary of this.

This will include gathering information from the pupils about how they feel about their experiences in relation to the careers programme.

Pupil progress in Careers lessons will be evaluated each term as part of our ongoing Pupil Tracking process.

It is our aim to provide pupils with both experiences of the workplace and / or encounters with employers. These encounters and experiences will take place as part of curriculum lessons / workplace visits / assemblies / attending Careers Fairs and Events.

Application for Provider Access

Introduction

This document sets out the school's arrangements for managing the access of providers to pupils at the school for the purpose of giving them information about the provider's education or training offer. This complies with the school's legal obligations under Section 42B of the Education Act 1997.

Pupil entitlement

All pupils in years 7-13 are entitled:

- to find out about technical education qualifications and apprenticeships opportunities, as part of a careers programme which provides information on the full range of education and training options available at each transition point;
- to hear from a range of local providers about the opportunities they offer, including technical education and apprenticeships – through options events, assemblies and group discussions and taster events;
- to understand how to make applications for the full range of academic and technical courses.

Management of provider access requests Procedure

A provider wishing to request access should contact Kate Jasper .

Telephone: 01386 443367

Email: kate.jasper@valeofeveshamschool.org

Opportunities for access

The school offers a comprehensive Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance programme and an overview of this programme can be seen in the School's Careers Charter which can be seen on the school website.

Please speak to our Careers Advisor to identify the most suitable opportunity for you.

The school will make a suitable space available for discussions between the provider and specialist equipment to support provider presentations. This will all be discussed and agreed in advance of the visit with the Careers Advisor or a member of their team.

Providers are welcome to leave a copy of their prospectus or other relevant course literature with the Careers Advisor so that they can be displayed in the Careers Section of the school library.

Feedback

Vale of Evesham school welcomes parental and employer participation within our careers related activities. Should you wish to support our activity or provide feedback on our careers strategy then please contact our Careers Leader directly.

Useful links / Resources

The Careers Enterprise Company	https://www.careersandenterprise.co.uk/
Gatsby Foundation	http://www.gatsby.org.uk/education/focus-areas/good-career-guidance http://www.gatsby.org.uk/education/focus-areas/good-career-guidance
Post 16 Skills Plan	https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/post-16-skills-plan https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/post-16-skills-plan-and-independent-report-on-technical-education
Department of Education Careers Strategy	https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/672418/ Careers guidance and access for education and training providers.pdf

Skills For Worcestershire	http://www.skills4worcestershire.co.uk/
Government Careers Strategy December 2017	https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/664319/Careers_strategy.pdf
National Careers Service	https://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk/
UCAS (Universities and Colleges Admissions Service)	https://www.ucas.com/
Worcestershire Local Enterprise Partnership	http://www.wlep.co.uk/
Worcestershire Apprenticeships	http://worcsapprenticeships.org.uk/
Worcester 6 th Form College	http://www.wsfc.ac.uk/
HOW College	http://www.howcollege.ac.uk/
Kidderminster College	http://kidderminster.ac.uk/
Warwickshire College Group	https://wcg.ac.uk/page/1/home
Worcester University	https://www.worcester.ac.uk/