



Spen Valley Work Related Learning Policy

Introduction

Although the statutory duty to deliver Work Related Learning has been removed, Spen Valley High School believes it has a responsibility to prepare students for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life, including preparation for working life.

The school wishes to promote work-related learning as part of the broader curriculum for all students and as a means for learning '*about work*', learning '*through work*' and learning '*for work*'

Student feedback has shown that the student body value the opportunity to be involved in Work Related Learning and feel that it has value in the preparation for working life and to assist them with their career decision making process.

Rationale

Work-related learning has an important contribution to make to the education of all our students in order for them to make an effective transition from the school to adulthood and employment. So that students are able to make this effective transition the school provides a wide range of opportunities for students to learn, *about*, *through* and *for* work in a range of contexts. The school has clearly identified work-related programme for all students.

Through Work Related Learning the School Aims:

- to improve educational standards by using contexts that increase motivation and attainment for all students
- to ensure that students follow courses and programmes which are appropriate to their longer term aspirations and needs
- to improve students' understanding of the world of work and its demands
- to improve the quality of provision and guidance
- to increase access and choice for all students
- to improve the transition of students from school to adult and working life.

The School's Objectives

The key objectives for work-related learning are:

- to raise levels of attainment through high quality work-related learning for all students
- to develop a range of opportunities which enhance the curriculum
- to promote greater awareness for students about the world of work, the development of key skills and employability
- to develop a range of appropriate and relevant activities which assist in raising all students' aspirations and achievement and which are of the highest possible quality and are regularly monitored
- to promote awareness and understanding of work, industry, the labour market, the economy and community
- to relate skills attitudes, concepts and knowledge learned in school to applications in the wider world
- to develop students' personal and social skills, in relationships, in a range of contexts.
- to provide students with informed and impartial guidance on the choices available for education, training and employment as well as other interests
- to improve employability through work-related learning
- to develop effective links with key partners – Business Links, Training Providers, C&K Careers, LA, Further Education Providers, Voluntary Sector, NCS etc; to enhance the curriculum offered.

Curriculum Provision

The range of activities the school is currently using in order to help meet its objectives include:

- vocational GCSE courses
- other relevant vocational courses and qualifications such as BTEC
- careers education and guidance
- work experience
- visits to employers
- enterprise projects
- personal, Social, Health and Citizenship, Religious and Ethics Education (as part of Integrated Humanities)
- visitors from Industry and Business
- vocational presentations

Work-related learning and Enterprise within the school will enable each curriculum area to make a full contribution through:

- the development of schemes of work that recognise the importance of work-related learning in preparing students for adult and working life
- ensuring that all students have access to some work related activities which are appropriate to their needs
- the use of appropriate teaching and learning strategies
- the regular review of learning outcomes and assessment arrangements for all work related programmes and courses
- ensuring maximum understanding for students of the various aspects of work related learning to adult and working life
- ensuring continuity and progression in schemes of work, so that all students can build on work-related experiences from previous levels.

Management of Work Related Learning

Mrs Zoe Hillam and Karen Bennett are responsible for:

- the management and co-ordination of the various aspects of work-related learning
- the range of activities in each key stage
- how the effectiveness and benefits of work-related activities are to be measured, monitored and evaluated.
- the assessment procedures and strategies for student evaluation of activities and learning outcomes
- the systems to secure balance, progression and continuity
- ensuring appropriate channels of communication at senior management level, governing body, learning communities and key partners to develop effective practice.

Individual subject staff are responsible for:

- ensuring that their schemes of work contribute to work-related aims
- identifying the types of activity at relevant points in the schemes of work
- identifying appropriate learning outcomes: skills, attitudes, concepts, knowledge and the strategies to achieve them
- clarifying how the activities help progression and learning *about, for and through* work
- indicating the scope for students to set their own learning objectives.

Policy Review

The school policy on work related learning will be reviewed and monitored at various levels and at different times by key groups on an annual basis.