

Work Experience



A Guide for Parents and Carers

What is work experience?

- Work experience is part of the school curriculum and consists of a one week placement in a company or organization for students in year 10.
- Work experience forms part of all pupils' entitlement to 'work related learning'.
- At Mount St Joseph, placements are chosen and organized by the pupil, and then followed up by the school with businesses to ensure the placements are safe, enjoyable and as meaningful as possible.

What does it involve?

- Pupils find out firsthand about the 'world of work'
- Pupils will do most of the preparation for their placement in school; this includes learning about the world of work, including health and safety, and equal employment opportunities
- School staff will conduct a short visit or telephone call whilst the pupil is on placement
- A debrief session will take place on their return to school where pupils can share and learn from their experience.

Why do Work Experience?

- Pupils can learn firsthand the difference between school and the work place
- Gain an insight into different roles/positions within a company
- Learn new skills
- Work with and be treated as an adult
- Develop confidence and communication skills
- Gain invaluable experience to help make career choices

Some Important Facts

- Pupils and their parents/carers are responsible for organizing transport to and from the placement
- Work experience is part of education and therefore UNPAID
- Work experience placements are checked by the school via an agency for Health and Safety reasons
- Employers receive no payment for accepting a pupil on placement
- Some placements require special clothing or equipment, such as safety boots. It is the parents/carers responsibility to provide these.

What Parents/Carers can do to help

- Discuss and encourage your child's choice of placement, helping them to make an informed and realistic choice.
- Ensure your child knows exactly how they are getting to and from their placement and do a 'dummy run' if necessary.
- Sign and return parental consent forms promptly, including information of any medical, learning, behavioral, or physical special needs, as the placement needs this information to ensure your child is happy and safe whilst on placement.
- Report any absence on the placement week to both the school and the employer.
- If you feel you would like to discuss your child's work experience needs with a member of staff please do not hesitate to contact school on 01204 391800, and ask for Mrs Richards, Careers Co-ordinator or Mrs Smith Head of Year 10.