

YEAR 10 WORK EXPERIENCE WEEK 15th-19th JULY 2024

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

On what grounds may a placement be rejected?

- The employer does not have Employer Liability Insurance;
- The placement is 'Out of Area';
- The placement fails a Health and Safety Risk Assessment conducted by Tailored Education;
- The placement is outside of the allocated school work experience week;
- The placement is outside of school hours.

Why does the school not provide a work experience placement for my child?

All Government funding to schools to support work experience ceased in 2012. Work experience was also made non-mandatory for schools. The funding subsidised an external company to manage and source placements on behalf of schools. Due to the extreme volume of the work that goes into organising work experience, an overwhelming majority of schools now no longer do it. We can only budget to ensure that all the work experience placements are risk assessed and considered appropriate for pupils. This alone is a significant amount of money.

Does the school have any placements at all?

We have a small bank of employers that offer placements each year. Disadvantaged pupils will be given priority to these placements. We do have information on what employers tend to offer placements, so it is always worthwhile to ask a question regarding potential employers for contact details.

What insurance does an employer need to have?

Under health and safety law, work experience placements are considered the same as any employee position. They are to be treated no differently, in regards to insurance, than any other young person they employ. Existing employers' [liability insurance policy](#) will cover work placements provided the insurer is a member of the [Association of British Insurers](#). Therefore, there is no need to obtain any additional employer's liability insurance if you take on work experience students. However, a specific young person's risk assessment will be required if not already in place. Support for Tailored Education will be available for guidance on this.

All placements must have a valid ELI Insurance to be authorised

What is classed as 'Out of Area'?

This is a placement where the child is unable to commute from their home address each day. It could also be that it is not within reasonable travelling distance from the school. While on work experience, together with the employer, the school retains responsibility for the welfare of the child while on placement. Parents/Guardians must have a conversation with the careers team if they wish for their child to have a placement where they work which is 'Out of Area'. Contact the careers team by email – careers@bedford.wigan.sch.uk.

Can my child come and work where I work?

Yes, providing the employer meets all the necessary ELI insurance, risk assessment criteria. If a direct guardian, such as a mother/father/guardian wants their child to have a work experience placement with them and they do not have the necessary ELI insurance, please discuss this with the careers team – careers@bedford.wigan.sch.uk

What happens if my child doesn't find a placement or the placement is not for a full week?

Pupils will be expected to attend school in their full uniform and will attend their regular timetable.

My child has a medical condition and/or SEND needs, and I have concerns about their wellbeing on placement, what should I do?

A medical or SEND need should hold no barrier regarding your child attending a work experience placement. Please note Bedford High School will not disclose any medical and/or SEND needs. Please ensure any relevant medical conditions, additional need requirements or any other concerns that may affect your child's time on placement are discussed with the employer so that they will be able to carry out a risk assessment and make reasonable adjustments to support your child. Please inform them that our Health & Safety partner, Tailored Education, will be in touch with them. In the unlikely event the employer is not supportive in any way; the placement must not be considered. Please note on the Work Experience Placement form if you will be declaring any medical conditions and a member of our careers team will be in touch with you. careers@bedford.wigan.sch.uk.

What happens if my child is not sure what to do?

The most valuable learning gained from work experience is not necessarily for the type of job they do. It is from the experience of being out in the big wide world and in the workplace. A restaurant or a local shop may not be a chosen career path but may lead to some part-time work. Working where parents work can be a great insight into what parents do. Be open to all placement opportunities and the learning experiences they can individually offer.

Will my child be able to do anything on placement?

Unfortunately, health and safety requirements will no doubt limit what your child will be able to do on placement.

Setting expectations is essential, in most cases, there will be a lot of work shadowing and observations. This can get frustrating and can be annoying if not prepared. Spending time with professionals and employers should be viewed as an opportunity to ask how they got into that form of employment and what pathways they took, do they recommend it. This is a fantastic career research opportunity and should be considered in that light.