EMBEDDING
CAREERS
IN THE
CURRICULUM



CURRICULUM EMBEDDING CHECKLIST: PRIMARY

This checklist is designed to help primary schools embed careers-related learning throughout the curriculum in a simple, age-appropriate way. It supports schools in making early connections between classroom learning and the world of work.

ONE-OFF TASKS		
Set the leadership	Assign a Careers Champion responsible for coordinating careers-related learning, ensuring its integration across the curriculum. This individual will be key to championing the initiative within the school.	
Baseline audit	Conduct an audit of current schemes of work or curriculum plans to pinpoint natural connections to various careers and aspects of the world of work. This helps identify where careers education can organically fit into existing lessons.	
Find a framework	Develop or adopt a straightforward framework that allows for mapping different jobs, essential skills, and core values into current school topics, such as 'Jobs from Stories' or 'Real World Maths'.	
Introduction of careers education	Brief all staff on the expectations for careers education and make use of tangible examples of what careers learning looks like when delivered at primary level.	
Build visibility	Create a prominent visual display or poster that clearly communicates the school's overall approach to linking learning with future life skills and potential career pathways.	



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ANNUAL TASKS		
Review and update	Annually review all careers-related activities already present in the curriculum across different year groups, making adjustments or adding new links as needed.	
Careers related theme weeks	Organise and run a whole-school theme or week dedicated to connecting learning to various jobs, such as a 'Healthy Living Week' exploring health professions, or a 'World Book Day' Careers focus.	
Share success	Actively celebrate and share examples of careers linked work or engaging displays with parents and governors, perhaps through a newsletter or during open evenings.	
Gather feedback	Conduct surveys among teachers to gauge their confidence levels and collect ideas for further embedding careers into lessons.	
Year 6 transition	Facilitate a transition related activity for Year 6 students, directly linking their primary experience to secondary school, such as creating 'Future Me' profiles or hosting a secondary school Q&A session.	



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TERMLY TASKS		
Careers links per topic	Support teachers in identifying at least one clear opportunity per topic or theme each term where a connection to careers can be explored.	
Update displays	Regularly refresh or rotate a classroom or corridor 'World of Work' display, ensuring it reflects current learning and remains engaging.	
Deliver assemblies	Plan and present a storytime or assembly that specifically links to various jobs, personal values, or practical real-life problem-solving scenarios.	
Developing staff questioning skills	Encourage staff to integrate career-related questions into their lessons, prompting students to think about 'Who uses this in their job?' or 'What skill are we building here?'.	
Collect and share practice	Document at least one instance per class or year group each term where career learning was embedded within the curriculum.	

EVERY DAY		
Transparency	Above all else, let students know what is going on, all day, every day.	

A practical toolkit to inspire students and deliver exceptional careers education





