

Liverpool City Region Careers Hub

Benchmark 6 Guide – Experiences of Workplaces

- By the age of 16, every pupil should have had at least one experience of a workplace, additional to any part-time jobs they may have. By the age of 18, or before the end of their study programme, every student should have had at least one further experience of a workplace, additional to any part-time jobs they may have. This extends to 19 for SEND schools.

SEND Schools – The terminology changes to ‘For whom it is deemed appropriate’, and community-based settings may count towards encounters.

Guidance

A **workplace visit** gives students the opportunity to see a work environment first-hand, observe work processes and talk to staff about their roles.

Work shadows see a student follow an employer or employee at work for a day or longer to find out what they do. It allows students to find out about aspects of a particular job they would not have access to through a work experience placement.

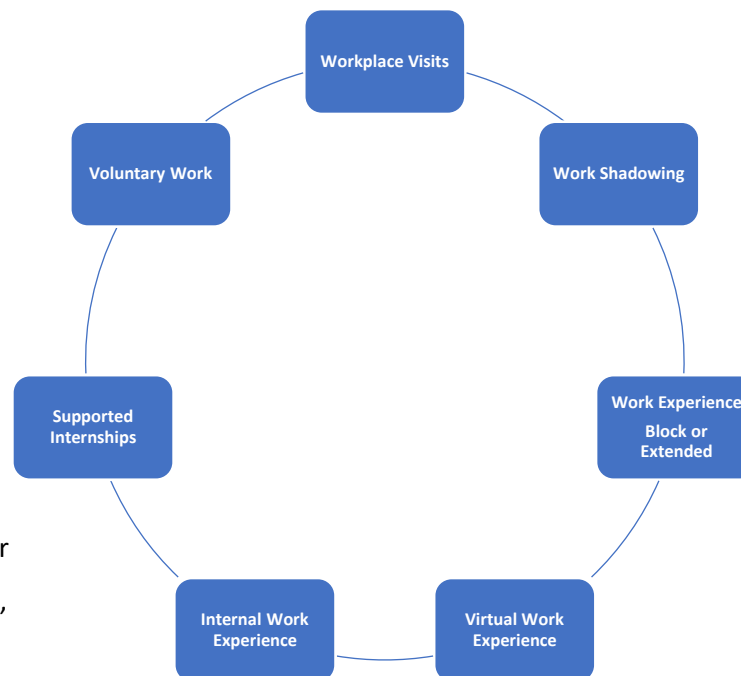
Work experience involves students doing real work tasks in a workplace. They may do one day a week over a few months, such as supported internships for college students, doing technical courses or a one or two-week block.

Provide age-related opportunities for learners, for example:

- At Key Stage 3, focus on breadth and include employer visits or job shadowing.
- At Key Stage 4, allow more student choice and target students’ interests.
- During post-16 learning, support individuals to choose a range of experiences, training and other activities congruent with their vocational aspirations.

Ensure workplace experiences are appropriate to the individual needs of the learner, considering supported placements and internal placements for students who need the most support.

The most common activities to fulfil BM6 are:



Guides & Reports

[Gatsby Benchmark 6 | CEC Resource Directory](#)
careersandenterprise.co.uk

[CEC | Experiences of workplaces - Practical ideas for achieving Gatsby Benchmark 6](#)

For work experience consider the most efficient approach to health and safety checks which may include brokerage services, externally commissioned staff, or training internal staff.

[Guidance on health and safety at work - HSE](#)
[A Brief Guide to Health & Safety for Employers](#)
[HSE – The Law: Young People at Work](#)
[ABI – Insurance & Work Experience](#)

Download the [Mencap guides](#) for employers on increasing employment opportunities for people with a learning disability.

[Access to Work: get support if you have a disability or health condition](#)

Tips to Identify Employers

Successful schemes depend on building contacts to establish strong and sustainable relationships with employers. Refer to the [BM5 guide](#) for tips on building an employer network.

Brokerage services are one way that some schools and colleges are addressing the resource requirements of workplace experiences & work-placement schemes. There are various organisations across the region that provide activities to fulfill BM5 & 6 please ask your Enterprise Coordinator for more information. **Fees may apply.**

The Careers Partners section of [Compass Plus](#) will also give you access to providers of work experience.

Additional Ideas

- Ask your Enterprise Adviser for support with this benchmark e.g. work placements may be available within their organisation or via their networks
- Duke of Edinburgh Bronze, Silver and Gold awards all require the completion of voluntary work, so counts towards BM6.
- Set up a school social action project involving local employers [YSA Toolkit \(careersandenterprise.co.uk\)](#)
- For those young people not quite ready to enter the workplace try the Project Explore – Virtual Reality experience. Contact your Enterprise Coordinator to book.
- Internal work experience
- Encourage and equip student to independently source their own workplace experiences this could be via family members.
- Large companies are using websites such as indeed to advertise work experience opportunities – create an account and set up alerts.
- Access further ideas from [CEC Resource Directory](#)

Organisations & Opportunities

Publish a request for workplace encounters on the following portals :

1. <https://www.inspiringthefuture.org/>
2. [STEM Ambassador Programme | STEM](#)

Opportunities

- [Industrial Cadets](#) – Accredited workplace experiences
- [Nuffield Research Placements](#) – Year 12 work-based research project.
- [EY Foundation](#) – Programmes for 16+ who have recently been eligible for free school meals and/or care experienced.
- [PLACED Academy \(placed-academy.com\)](#) The **PLACED Academy** is a free to access, creative programme about the built environment for 14-18 year olds
- [Open Doors Programme](#) – Construction site visits
- [All About STEM](#) – Unilever Bright Futures Programme

Virtual work experience and Insight Days

- [Virtual Work Experience | VWEX | Speakers for Schools](#)
- [Spring Pod Virtual Work Experience](#)
- [Barclays Life Skills Virtual Work Experience](#)
- [The Forage - Free bitesize virtual work experience](#)
- [Uptree – Free work experience days and events](#)
- Many companies are providing in-house virtual work experience programmes, and [this CEC guide](#) lists the main ones.

Encourage students to sign up for voluntary work

- [Do-it.org](#)
- <https://oneknowsley.org/volunteers-platform/>
- www.volunteeringsefton.org.uk/
- www.haltonsthelensvca.org.uk/
- [Wirral CVS promoting and developing volunteering](#)
- www.lcv.org.uk/ / [LCVS Volunteer Portal |](#)



Look out for opportunities in the weekly Careers Hub newsletter and website
[LCR Careers Hub](#)