

Careers education, information, advice and guidance makes a major contribution to preparing young people for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences they will encounter at school, in further education and in working life. Woodcroft School's careers programme aims to help pupils make a successful transition to adulthood by:

- Supporting them to achieve their full potential
- Empowering them to plan and manage their own futures
- Encouraging them to aim to achieve personal and economic wellbeing throughout their lives
- Raising aspirations
- Providing unbiased information on their options

At Woodcroft our careers curriculum is formed of two parts:

- Age 7 to 11 – Awareness of careers as part of preparing for the future; and widening horizons in respect of what can be achieved
- Age 11 to 13 – Knowledge about careers and the impact of making decisions about their futures. (Note: occasionally pupils may be taught in a mixed aged range class and where this occurs this part will be taught to pupils from the age of ten and a half)

## Ethos and practice

Woodcroft's careers programme follows a curriculum designed to take into consideration the fact that primarily our pupils have severe and complex learning difficulties, including autism.

The careers programme reflects and embodies the school ethos of flexibility around the needs of individual pupils. The programme incorporates a variety of learning styles, enabling pupils to overcome some of the barriers presented by their learning needs. We hope to encourage pupils to aspire to work when they are adults in a way that is realistic, but unconstrained by stereotypes that might be perceived as holding them back.

In identifying and addressing the individual needs of the pupil (including their healthcare needs, cognitive ability, capacity to regulate emotions or social awareness, etc.) pupils are prepared to enter career pathways in later schooling.

Woodcroft is committed to career, employability and enterprise learning and development; and we fulfil our statutory obligations by providing learning about careers to the relevant aged pupils at the level that suits them.

We aim to provide:

- Subject teaching and resources that prepare pupils for adulthood
- A programme of careers education and guidance at an age appropriate level
- Information about adult work and places of work
- Opportunities for impartial advice at an appropriate age
- The development of interests and skills that will support further careers education
- Sharing of information with onward secondary school placements

## Delivery

Woodcroft is committed to maximising the benefits for pupils by adopting a whole school approach and involving parents and carers, and the wider community.

We provide a rich learning environment and a curriculum designed to encourage independence, life skills and experiences that will prepare children for adulthood, including the world of work.

Our off-site and community-based programme is used to provide opportunities to discover and explore various types of workplace.

We are influenced by the Gatsby Standards (The Gatsby Foundation, 2014), a framework of eight standards for delivering high quality careers education. The eight standards are:

1. A stable careers programme.
2. Learning from careers and labour market information.
3. Addressing the needs of each pupil.
4. Linking curriculum learning to careers.
5. Encounters with employers and employees.
6. Experiences of workplaces.
7. Encounters with further and higher education.
8. Personal guidance.