



Willingdon

COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Headline News

Investors in Careers states that Willingdon Community School
"Fully meets all the accreditation criteria incorporating the Gatsby Benchmarks' for the
National Quality Award for Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance
Provision."

"My son has really enjoyed the Dare to Dream
program .I really appreciate his inclusion on this
project. He has definitely benefited from the
exposure to the wider world. It is lovely to see
curiosity and interest sparked again!"

Parent comment

Work experience has given me
insight into the world of work and
into a field of work that I am
considering as a future career.

Student comment

"I learnt a lot of new things at the
Big Futures Show. There were
colleges and companies that I
found out about."

Student comment

"I was really interested in all of the apprenticeship
information and I signed up for all of the updates. I would
really like to get an apprenticeship in the future."

Student comment

Curriculum Booklet

Careers The Big Future

"Your Career Journey Starts Here"

Sept 2025

Our School Curriculum Vision

The curriculum at **Willingdon Community School** provides a broad, balanced, personalised, and challenging educational experience, building on students' prior learning from the primary phase. It aims to equip all students with the knowledge, understanding, skills, and attitudes necessary to become successful learners who enjoy learning, make progress, and achieve their full potential.

Subject Vision

Our priority is for students to reach their full potential during their school journey, and for this to be reflected in their public examination results. Although students move on from **Willingdon Community School** for Post-16 education, we ensure that they have developed key transferable skills to adapt to their next destination. As confident learners, they are well-prepared to embrace life to the fullest.

To demonstrate this commitment, we have been awarded the **Investors in Careers National Quality Award for Careers Education, Information, Advice, and Guidance Provision**, fully meeting all accreditation criteria and incorporating the Gatsby Benchmarks.

Through our comprehensive careers programme, which begins in Year 7, all students receive a robust careers curriculum aligned with the **8 Gatsby Benchmarks of Good Career Guidance**. Students gain insights from careers and labour market information, and experience encounters with employers, employees, and various workplaces. This ensures they are Post-16 ready and have knowledge of over 300 different careers.

To support understanding of further and higher education, we have established strong links with local and national universities and colleges. All students have the opportunity to visit universities, experience campus life, and appreciate the benefits of achieving a degree. We also collaborate closely with local colleges, supporting students through taster days during Key Stage 4.

A comprehensive work experience programme for Key Stage 4 students provides first-hand insights into the world of work. Additionally, we regularly welcome guest speakers to inspire and educate students about future careers and the wide range of opportunities available to them.



Key Concepts in Careers

The careers programme at **Willingdon Community School** prepares students for the next stage of their lives, whether that be further education, an apprenticeship, or entering the workforce. Young people must make well-informed decisions based on a range of facts and information, as the choices they make now will influence their options later in life.

Our careers education is centred around the following key areas:

- **Careers education:** Exploring industries, career paths, job roles, self-assessment, and subject-specific career options.
- **Post-16 choices:** Understanding 6th Form, colleges, apprenticeships, higher education, types of qualifications, and their equivalency.
- **Employer engagement:** Providing opportunities at local, regional, national, and international levels.
- **Labour market information:** Accessing and interpreting local and national employment trends.
- **Personal skills for work:** Developing self-confidence, articulation, determination, clear aspirations, and a fearless approach to learning.
- **Employability:** Building confidence through creating professional CVs, covering letters, and application forms, as well as gaining work-related experiences that add value and prepare students for the workplace.
- **Entrepreneurial skills:** Nurturing leadership, innovation, resilience, problem-solving, and financial awareness.



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Programme of Study Key Stage 3

Careers, Employability, and Enterprise Education

The **Big Future Careers programme** is delivered through Coaching Time, curriculum areas, and the Enterprise Curriculum at Key Stage 3 (KS3).

The Enterprise Curriculum

Introduced in September 2021, these 8-week courses aim to make young people world-ready by providing essential life skills and knowledge about business, the economy, and careers.

- **Year 7:** Focuses on money management and aspirations.
- **Year 8:** Explores how and why businesses exist and the roles they create within the labour market.
- **Year 9:** Concentrates on entrepreneurship and product development, with a project based on McDonald's Educational Resources.

Coaching Time

Developing Yourself through Careers, Employability, and Enterprise

This element focuses on self-awareness, self-determination, and self-improvement, helping learners understand their strengths and preferences. It encourages students to focus on wellbeing, progress, and achievements.

Learning About Careers and the World of Work

Students explore careers and career development, gaining an understanding of work, businesses, and industry. They learn about the wide range of jobs available, labour market information, and how working lives can change over time. Topics such as equality, diversity, inclusion, and safe working practices are also addressed.

Developing Career Management, Employability, and Enterprise Skills

This area ensures that students can effectively use career information and guidance to develop employability and enterprise skills. It also supports the development of application and financial capability skills, enabling students to make informed and sound decisions about their future.

Programme of study for Key Stage 4

Careers, Employability and Enterprise Education

The Big Future's Careers programme is delivered through Coaching Time and in curriculum areas at KS3

Year 10

- Next steps
- World of work – what employers want, work and lifestyle
- Rights and responsibilities at work
- Work experience – benefits and application process
- Labour Market information
- What job might suit me and job families
- Application skills
- The value of money and remuneration
- Managing Money
- Rules on termination of employment
- Understanding debt
- Health and safety at work
- Developing a personal sales pitch
- Different qualifications and their equivalents
- Post 16 providers in East Sussex
- Applications and tester days
- Apprenticeships
- Personal statement drafts
- Undertake work experience

Year 11

- Actions for Post 16 transition
- Skills and interests' analysis
- College and apprenticeship applications
- Perfecting your personal statement
- Labour Market Information
- Different qualifications and their equivalents
- Changing job markets
- Personal learning and thinking skills
- Money matters
- Money, tax and society
- Making financial choices
- Dealing with debt
- Completing applications
- Writing CVs and covering letters
- Preparing for interviews
- Higher education providers
- Higher education funding
- Adding personal value Post 16
- Plan B



Work Experience – Year 10

Work Experience is an important part of education and supports young people to make career decisions, develop employability skills and support a successful transition into Further Education, Higher Education, apprenticeships and the workplace.



Student's benefit from work experience as it gives them: -

- **More confidence and improved self esteem**
- **Ability to communicate with adults**
- **Improved timekeeping**
- **Additional practical work skills**
- **Team working**
- **Problem solving skills**
- **Time management and organisation**
- **Clarifies job roles within industry**
- **Broadens horizons in relation to career routes and job roles available**

What our student said

"My work experience was amazing. Not only was it a subject I enjoyed, but the people there showed me all the different parts of the job from cleaning the documents to customer service in the library. The employers were a very friendly team and even made the effort to give me work relating to my interests. Even something like cataloguing pamphlets was interesting because they were about my favourite topics and I even learnt about school work whilst I was there. I catalogued some political pamphlets by J.B Priestley which was interesting since we are doing An Inspector Calls in English."

What the employer said

"We were delighted to welcome back our first Year 10 work experience student since the start of the pandemic. Miller Adems from Willingdon School in Eastbourne joined the University of Sussex team for a week finding out about working with archives. Here is an extract from what Miller wrote after his placement. "I have never once been bored at The Keep as new and exciting things happen every day. "I spent my first day cataloguing pictures of the University of Sussex taken in the 60s and got a great tour of the library on campus. "I met some of the people who work at The Keep and was delighted to see how friendly everyone was. My next day was probably the most eventful of the week. I started the day in the conservator's workshop and could not believe The Keep had a 1680s copy of The Tempest! "After experiencing the tasks, a conservator has to do I returned to my desk and began working on cataloguing political books and pamphlets which I very much enjoyed. "Finally, I ended the day sitting in on a meeting where a person was donating hundreds of letters from her German Jewish family members to The Keep!"

Spiritual, Moral, Social & Cultural Development

Spiritual, Moral, Social, and Cultural (SMSC) Development is evaluated through personal development, which includes:

- Preparing students for the next phase of education, training, or employment, ensuring they are equipped to make a successful transition.

Secondary school pupils are supported through:

- An effective careers programme aligned with the government's statutory guidance on careers advice, which provides:
 - Unbiased and impartial careers guidance.
 - Opportunities to gain work experience.
 - Engagement with employers to inspire students, help them make informed choices, and understand the steps needed to succeed in their chosen careers.

Parents can help students by: -

Parents and guardians can support students by:

- Engaging in effective career conversations and guiding them in making informed decisions about their future. This includes helping students discover their strengths and passions and exposing them to a variety of activities to identify areas of interest.
- Discussing future career ideas and encouraging students to consider all available options.
- Encouraging students to make full use of the help and guidance provided at school.
- Supporting the development of skills through education, hobbies, interests, work experience, and part-time jobs.
- Encouraging the use of online resources to explore the job market, understand the skills employers are seeking, and identify employment trends.
- Motivating students to attend careers events, fairs, and workshops to broaden their knowledge and opportunities.

Careers Learning Journey

