

Gauging impact

Parent and carer feedback

95% of parents reported that work experience had a positive or potentially positive impact on their child's confidence, with three quarters (75%) seeing a clear increase in confidence following their placement.

The experience is also encouraging students to think more positively and proactively about their future. **79% of parents reported that their child talks more about their future career or education plans following work experience**, with 41% saying *much more* and 38% saying *a little more*.

Parents highlighted the difference work experience has made to their children's confidence, aspirations and readiness for the future:

"My child is more confident, more organised and more aware of what working life entails."

"My child loved it. The independence and the new experiences have really helped them think about life after school."

"My child was very proud of themselves after completing their week of work experience."

"Since completing work experience, my child has started talking about their future more."

"My child is clear on the path they want to take and more confident with people they don't know."

"The work experience really broadened my child's understanding of working life and helped them understand what is expected in the workplace."

"My child has developed the ability to talk to adults in a variety of different situations."

"My child was offered the potential opportunity of an apprenticeship."

"My child enjoyed the experience and is excited about working once they leave school."

"My child is very keen to progress at school and achieve better results to secure a better job."

"Work experience helped my child develop better time management, focus and self-discipline."

"My child has gained confidence. They understand that putting in hard work brings rewards in many ways."

From increased confidence and responsibility to apprenticeship opportunities, volunteering placements and clearer career ambitions, work experience is helping our students take meaningful steps towards their future.

What can we improve?

Parent Feedback and Our Response

While parents reported feeling well informed at the start of the work experience process, some shared that they would have appreciated clearer information about how to access support if questions or challenges arose during placements. A small number of parents also indicated that they would have welcomed additional support when helping their child secure a suitable placement.

In response to this feedback, the Careers Department has introduced regular **Microsoft Teams drop-in sessions** for parents and carers. These sessions provide an opportunity to ask questions, seek advice, receive support with placement arrangements and access guidance throughout the work experience programme.