

Work Experience & Community Work

Practicalities:

- Community Work – 1 week in duration (Dates TBC)
- Work Experience – 2 weeks in duration (To coincide with Pre Exams)
- Compulsory element of Transition Year
- Students must organise all of the weeks themselves
- Preparation should be done well in advance to secure work
- Employers provided with feedback and attendance documents
- Students are visited on placement
- Students complete reports and other tasks based on their experiences to receive their Work Experience Certificate


Benefits of work experience:

- Practice in preparing CV and cover letter/emails
- Encourages communication between student and potential employers
- Fosters maturity and ability to deal with other people
- Rewards students with a sense of achievement
- Allows students to gain perspective on the world of work
- Provides a valuable opportunity to observe potential career choices
- Helps students select appropriate subjects for Leaving Cert
- Provides a wealth of experience for those who will soon be undertaking interviews for college
- Forges links with the wider community which benefits both students and the school

Potential Pitfall to Avoid:

- Despite efforts the student is unable to secure a work experience placement
- The placement is not deemed suitable by the school
- The placement is outside of the dates permitted by the school
- Student does not engage with the process
- Student selects work experience only with a view to obtaining future summer employment
- Student is unable to secure adequate hours in chosen location
- Student does not commit to attending placement as directed






3rd Level

- UCC
- CIT
- Crawford
- CSN



Industry

- Tyndall Institute
- Dell
- Quest
- Stryker
- AMS



Other

- Primary schools
- Montessori
- Care homes
- Accountants
- Shops
- Hotels
- Cafes
- Red FM
- Hairdresser
- Beauticians

What can I do now?

- Talk to your daughter about work experience for next year
- Do some research on placement locations around Cork city or nearer to your local area
- Student should begin to make contact with organisations/businesses to ask about opportunities for placement (it's never too early)
- Talk to family/friends/neighbours who may be able to offer placement opportunities to student
- Check back with school if necessary to check on suitability of placement
- Get a contact person at the placement location who will act as liaison or supervisor while the student is on placement
- Confirm the place with the provider and give the details to the Guidance Counsellor on the official form provided to students