



Best Practice Case Study

Danesholme Infant Academy, Corby

Introducing the World of Work at KS1

Starting Early

At Danesholme Infant Academy, in Corby, Northamptonshire, part of the Greenwood Multi-Academy Trust, Principal Carol May is impassioned about starting exposure to jobs and careers early and says Primary Futures was a vehicle to achieve what she already believed, in an easy way. At Danesholme, aspirational activities are embedded into school life. They have organised aspirations Assemblies and Classroom Chats via Primary Futures and used the pre-recorded NHS Classroom Chats and 'What's My Line?' Festive Special videos. Volunteers make the learning concrete for the age group using props, uniforms and stories.

"I think it's so important that our children are prepared for the world of work - even if they're only four or five, they need to know the attributes of getting into the world of work and working towards them.... . [Primary Futures] was an avenue of promoting what I already believed in... it almost took the pressure off - until I knew about Primary Futures, I was doing a lot myself."

Making the most of virtual sessions

During their live virtual activity in November 2020, Year 2 children heard from a Radio Spectrum Engineer, an Architect and an Airport Manager. The volunteers made sure to explain their jobs in easy-to-understand language for the children, and used relatable reference points to explain their roles. The Airport Manager even took his computer to show the children the airport hangar where all the planes were stored – which led to lots of excitement in the classroom!

Children said they learnt about "lots of different jobs and what was involved in them", "different types of things a radio is involved in", "how a plane lands", "how long it takes an architect to build buildings", and that "maths is important". Carol spoke of the impact on many individual pupils, in particular a Year 2 boy who was a reluctant reader and has since taken a great interest in reading once he learned that this was necessary to achieve his dream of becoming a police officer.

"The advantage [to virtual] is that we've been able to continue as if nothing's happened – our children haven't lost out on their career education because we've had to go virtual... Often the person who's come on screen will take us or show us things that is probably better than if they came in person."

