



Best Practice Case Study

Joseph Cash Primary School, Coventry

Using Primary Futures as part of a Pupil Premium strategy

Why the school got involved?

Michelle Giblin is Lead Practitioner for the Pupil Premium at Joseph Cash Primary in Coventry. Within her pupil premium role she has a remit to raise pupils' aspirations and she is also particularly interested in reaching the pupils that are still disadvantaged but not eligible for pupil premium. Her school is in area of high deprivation and many children, particularly those from White British backgrounds, may come from three or four generations of unemployment.

Impact of Primary Futures activities

Michelle planned a whole-school live virtual career classroom chats supported by the Primary Futures team, featuring a cyber-security specialist, a scientist, an NHS mental health professional and a civil service fast-streamer from a working class background.

"We did a baseline activity of what jobs children wanted to be before and after the activity and many children had changed their mind and said 'I want to be a scientist' or 'I want to fight cyber-crime' There was a significant number of pupils that were hanging on every word of the volunteer and thinking, 'I could be that.' "

Complementing live virtual activities with pre-recorded resources

Michelle has really valued the pre-recorded resources especially at times during the pandemic when certain bubbles had to self-isolate at home. She felt the NHS resource resonated with children because they've all been to the doctor and because of the covid context. She felt the Festive resource was a nice contrast because it highlighted more quirky, unique jobs and "helped to promote thinking outside the box of what you can do with your future" and substituted some festive activities that were curtailed by the pandemic. It was also an opportunity to engage parents as children took their drawings of festive jobs home and they were posted on the school virtual learning environment.

Kick-starting the journey to embedding career-related learning

Michelle really valued the planning support from the Primary Futures team to set up her first virtual event, which has now demystified the technology and safeguarding concerns. Moving forward to plan activities independently on the Primary Futures portal, Michelle is planning to start small with one year group at a time and build up her confidence hosting virtual sessions to achieve some of her ambitions for creating an aspirational programme of activities, virtually and face-to-face.

Her virtual Primary Futures session has inspired her to bring a careers lens to other visiting speakers and into children's learning about the wider world. Previously, Joseph Cash hosted visiting speakers that linked with topics or awareness days, for example a baker that visited for Bread Week to talk about the production line.

"After seeing this Primary Futures activity, I am thinking a baker could talk about jobs and there are so many directions you could take this with aspirations. For example we want to focus on STEM subjects this term and could invite relevant volunteers."