



NORTHGATE

High School

Work Experience Guide
for Employers 2026

Employer Work Experience Guide

Northgate High School relies upon the local community to offer work experience placements and are extremely appreciative of the time and effort given by businesses and organisations in helping deliver this invaluable learning experience to students. This guide provides information on the work experience process, the benefits to both employers and young people and an overview of health and safety and risk assessment considerations.

1. Introduction
2. Placement Duration
3. The Careers Department
4. Things to consider before agreeing to work experience
5. Benefits of Offering Work Experience
6. Working Times, Location and Conditions
7. Attendance
8. The Law
9. Health and Safety
10. Insurance
11. Risk Assessment
12. Sole Traders / Employers with less than 5 Employees
13. Safeguarding
14. Equality and Diversity
15. Data Protection
16. The Process
17. During Work Experience
18. What If Things Go Wrong?
19. After Work Experience
20. Sources, References and Information

Work Experience is defined by the DFES as “**A placement on an employer’s premises in which a student carries out a particular task or duty, or range of tasks or duties, more or less as would an employee, but with an emphasis on the learning aspects of the experience**”.

1. Introduction

Work experience introduces young people to the reality of working life and is a valuable and essential part of their Education. Practical time in the workplace is the most important factor in shaping their perception of work, where they can experience working in an adult environment with its different disciplines, routines, procedures, technology and social structures, in a safe and supervised way. Students can witness first-hand what employers and universities look for, and how the subjects they study in school link to particular jobs.

The UK is currently experiencing a skills shortage, and this is especially acute in some industries. Work experience is an ideal opportunity to raise the profile of your business sector and bridge the gap between education and the world of work. You can shape the future workforce by engaging, inspiring and informing young people about what working life is really like. Helping to develop their key skills, occupational knowledge and understanding of the skills, attributes and qualifications required is a crucial stepping stone in their future decision making.

Your contribution as a work experience provider is a valuable resource to secure and sustain employment in the future. This booklet will help you, and those responsible for work experience in your company, ensure that young people have a fulfilling and meaningful placement whilst they are with you.

2. Placement Duration

Placements will run for 5 school days and should cover the full duration of the work experience period.

The dates are not flexible: **Monday 8th June to Friday 12th June 2026** (one full week)

3. The Careers Department at Northgate High School

Northgate has a dedicated Careers Department that is responsible for delivering the Work Experience programme.

To contact the Careers team telephone 01473 210123, or alternatively email workexperience@northgate.suffolk.sch.uk.

4. Things to consider before agreeing to work experience

Talk to your staff and determine whether it is viable to take on a work experience student and how they can contribute. The student will have a very limited experience of working. A few may have Saturday or evening jobs but for many this will be their first experience of working – even opening and distributing post can be a new skill.

Identify the person that will support, supervise and mentor the student during their work experience. This person will need to be competent in their role and mature in their attitudes. They will be the first point of contact for the school and the student in any instance of absence. Maybe you have a staff member that is looking to develop their supervisory skills and step up to Supervisor? Think about who will be responsible if the Supervisor is absent? It is recommended that the number of students in the workplace does not exceed one student for every three employees.

Is the work experience inclusive? The placement will need to take into account the student's age, inexperience, immaturity, lack of awareness and any medical/health conditions. Can you make appropriate arrangements for young people with special needs, for example those who have particular disabilities or learning difficulties? You will be given relevant medical/health information and any necessary advice well in advance of the placement. You may need to alter the risk assessment to take account of this.

Plan a programme of work. You will need to provide these details on the Unifrog placement tool. Students always ask what they will be doing, so the more detailed the job description is, the better chance there is of placing the right student with you. Work experience can include any number of activities and tasks, for example:

- Assign a project or task, which is supervised but allows them to use their own ideas and creativity.
- Identify some work shadowing or team working opportunities.
- Arrange site and study visits.
- Set-up mock interviews and mentoring sessions.
- Organise enterprise competitions and challenges.
- Delegate administrative tasks such as answering telephones, sending emails, minute taking or filing.

Good quality work experience placements are those that are:

- Flexible for both the employer and the student.
- Purposeful, relevant and really challenge a student to think about their career goals and abilities.
- Planned and supervised, so that a student's time is well spent.
- Clear about the roles, responsibilities and expectations of the student and employer.
- Reviewed at the end, with the employer providing feedback on the student's performance.

5. Benefits of Offering Work Experience

Work experience should be beneficial both to you and the student, so it is essential they are given as much insight into the world of work as possible. Some of the benefits allow you to:

- Invest in young people which in return brings commitment and loyalty; better staff retention, helps maintain productivity and reduce recruitment costs.
- Shape the future workforce and have access to the up-and-coming talent of the future.
- Develop your current employees by involving them in the placement and providing potential management opportunities.
- Young people can bring a new perspective and fresh ideas which may open up new and emerging markets for the business.
- Increase your understanding of modern learning processes and current educational qualifications.
- Break the cycle – many students find themselves in a situation where they cannot get a job because of lack of experience, so taking part in a work placement ensures they can demonstrate their practical experience to potential employers.

- Work placements help young people to gain experience in working with people, improving their social and communication skills.
- Students can learn about the recruitment process e.g., how to apply for a job, prepare for interviews and build a CV.

6. Working Times, Location and Conditions

Although young people under the age of 16 cannot be employed during the school day under normal circumstances, this does NOT apply to work experience.

Work placements to support pre-16 learning must be compliant with the EU Working Time Directive, therefore students cannot be asked to work excessively long or unnecessarily unsocial hours. Placements should be a minimum of 25 hours a week to give the best experience of a working environment.

Students are expected to follow the normal working day of your company. Start/finish times do not need to be restricted to school hours but must be agreed beforehand by all parties. Students may work up to 8 hours a day between 6am and 10pm, to a maximum of 40 hours, over five consecutive days out of seven. Placements should be a minimum of 25 hours to give the student the best experience of a working environment.

If the student has an existing weekend job, they may need to take some time off from it to avoid working excessive hours. The hours will need to be aggregated to the maximum 40 hours in any one week, with the work experience hours prioritised as part of the student's compulsory education.

Students can work on a Saturday and/or Sunday but must have days off during the week to compensate. Lunch and break times should be discussed and agreed during the process.

Students are responsible for making their own travel arrangements and should have considered this when applying for your placement. If the placement is some distance from their home, they may wish to stay with a relative or friend. You will be provided with details of this person if this is the case.

If a placement is arranged in a school holiday, then this is not classified as 'school time' work experience. It is a parent's responsibility to ensure that health and safety issues, such as Employer Liability Insurance and young person's risk assessments, are in place. Please speak to the Careers Department if you require further guidance.

Students are not expected to be paid during work experience, as it is part of their continuing education programme. However, you may wish to contribute to out of pocket expenses such as travelling, meals, or by extending the benefits of any employee welfare scheme to students engaged on work experience at your discretion.

7. Attendance

Work experience is a vital part of the student's compulsory education and as such it is not acceptable for students to arrange a holiday or non-urgent appointment during this period. The student should work the hours you have agreed, unless they have a valid reason to leave early such as an emergency medical appointment, where they are permitted to attend.

All absences must be reported, so if a student is going to be late, is ill or is attending an emergency medical appointment, we ask that they notify you and the Careers Department immediately. Absences will be recorded in line with school attendance procedures. If you do not receive contact from the student within 30 minutes of the agreed arrival time, you should contact the Careers Department to follow this up. Students should continue to ring you and the school for each day of absence. **They must not leave the placement without notifying either yourself and the school.**

Should you wish to send the student home earlier than the agreed hours, you are entitled to do this at your discretion; we do however ask that you contact the Careers Department and parent/carer to let them know.

8. The Law

Work experience is governed by the Education Act 1996, as amended by the School Standards & Framework Act 1998. Section 560 of the Education Act 1996 allows work experience at any time during the last two years of compulsory schooling (Years 10 and 11). However, the Act prohibits work experience where the work itself is subject to a statutory age limit.

All tasks asked of students must conform to the laws governing the Employment of Young Persons and Work Experience (as defined in the Education Act 1996). You must also ensure that any other statutory obligations are also being observed, in particular that relating to the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974; the Management of Health & Safety at Work Regulations 1999; RIDDOR 1995; PUWER 1998 and COSHH 1999, and legislation in respect of Sex Discrimination, Race Relations, Disability, and the Children Act. Your company must be registered with the Health and Safety Executive or Local Authority, as applicable.

9. Health and Safety

This section, along with sections 10, 11 and 12, tells you what you need to do when assessing the health and safety risks to work experience students below the age of 18. It outlines the requirements in law. Putting the requirements into practice should be straightforward and in most cases, you should already have the necessary risk management arrangements in place. It will also give you some idea of the sort of questions the school are likely to ask you about your health and safety arrangements.

When you offer a work experience placement to a student, you have the same primary responsibilities for their health, safety and welfare as for your entire workforce. Under health and safety law, our students are regarded as your employees.

The Careers Department will ask you to complete the work experience placement form in Unifrog detailing what tasks the student will be doing and your health and safety arrangements with regards to this. This is especially helpful in making the responsibilities of both sides clear.

Once you have agreed to the placement of a student in your organisation, the Careers Department will need to be satisfied that you have assessed the associated risks to workers under the age of 18 on your premises, and have suitable and sufficient risk management arrangements in place. This is part of our legal responsibilities towards the students we send on work placements. In a low-risk environment, simple checks are all that is required. For higher risk environments, more robust checks will need to be made. There is no requirement for the school to use a third party to do this, and it can be done in several ways including using past history, telephone/email conversations and site visits.

Young people will be facing unfamiliar risks from the job they will be doing and from their surroundings, and are therefore likely to need more supervision than adults. Students must be adequately supervised throughout the placement; however, student participation with observation of other activities is one of the main characteristics of the programme. Monitoring the student will help you to get a clear idea of their progress in the job and enables you to monitor the effectiveness of their training.

Restrictions may apply to the types of work which young people, including students below the Minimum School Leaving Age (MSLA), on work experience are allowed to do. This includes operating dangerous machinery, carrying out any manual handling tasks identified as being a risk to the student's health and safety, or being exposed to dangerous substances, radiation, extreme heat or cold, noise or vibration or any other work environment that may endanger their health and safety. Young people below the MSLA must never do work involving these risks, whether they are employed or under training such as work experience.

Parent/carers/guardians must give permission for their child to take part in the work experience programme and their consent must be gained before the student's placement is confirmed with you. The consent form contains medical and emergency contact details and will be shared with you where it is relevant to the student's health, safety and wellbeing whilst in the workplace. This information may require you to review your Young Person's Risk Assessment, taking into consideration the student's specific needs.

Where appropriate, you must legally provide students with, and instruct them on, the correct use of personal protective clothing and equipment (PPE). They should be given appropriate instruction and supervision by a competent, responsible and experienced person whilst operating any machinery or equipment.

The school must be informed immediately if a student has an accident during the placement period. They must have access to adequate first aid facilities as required under the Health and Safety (First Aid) Regulations 1981. Where appropriate, you must comply with the provisions of the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 1995. Students are not employed under a Contract of Service and therefore not entitled to the benefits of the National Insurance (Industrial Injuries) Act in the event of injury through accident.

Students will be briefed in a programme of careers lessons about Health and Safety issues prior to their placement.

You must provide the student with a health and safety induction at the start of their work experience. There is a section in the student's logbook for you to complete with them. Please explain to students the workplace risks and how they are controlled, checking that they understand what they have been told and how to raise any health and safety concerns.

The Health and Safety Executive has further information around health and safety for young people at work:
<https://www.hse.gov.uk/young-workers/employer/index.htm>.

10. Insurance

The Association of British Insurers (ABI), The British Insurance & Investment Brokers Association (BIBA) and Lloyds of London have agreed that students on work experience placements should be treated as employees for the purposes of insurance.

In order to participate in our programme, all work placement providers must have cover for both Employer and Public liability insurances. This means students will be covered if they injure themselves, an employee, or a member of the public, or if they damage your property or property belonging to someone else. Employers' liability policies must provide cover of at least £5 million per occurrence.

If your insurer is a member of ABI or Lloyds, there should be no need to obtain additional employers' liability insurance for work experience students, as your policy will already cover work placements. If you are in any doubt, check with your insurer and advise them that a student will be on the premises and the applicable dates. More details about ELI can be found here: - <http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/hse40.pdf>

Most employers are required by law to insure against liability for injury or disease to their employees, however there are situations where companies do not hold ELI but are able to take work experience placements. These include government bodies that are crown indemnified, which means that in the event of an accident the crown will pay out for compensation rather than an insurance company. Large companies, like Microsoft, self-insure themselves by holding an account with a minimum of £10 million to cover any insurance claims.

ELI is not required for certain family businesses, for instance if you are closely related to the student, i.e. father, mother, grandfather, grandmother, stepfather, stepmother, brother, sister, half-brother or half-sister. This exemption does not apply to family businesses that are incorporated as limited companies. If you are exempt from ELI, a statement should be forwarded to the school explaining the exemption. (See section 12 for Sole Traders or Employers with less than 5 employees).

Company vehicles must have 'Business Use' insurance cover if the student is to accompany employees during work hours on outside visits to customers and suppliers etc.

You will be asked to provide valid copies of the insurance certificates and confirm that the ELI covers work experience before the placement can commence. There is no need for the school to visit you to confirm this.

11. Risk Assessment

As an employer of 5 or more employees, you should already have written risk assessments for your workforce. This means you have already looked at what in your work could cause harm to people and weighed up whether you have taken enough precautions or could do more to prevent harm.

Under health and safety law, you must assess the risks to young people under 18 years old, before they start work/work experience and tell them what the risks are. The law does not expect you to remove all risks, but to protect the health and safety of all your employees, irrespective of their age, by putting measures in place to control those risks, so far as reasonably practicable. This means balancing the level of risk against the measures needed to control the real risk in terms of money, time or trouble. Your risk assessment need only include what you could reasonably be expected to know – you are not expected to anticipate unforeseeable risks.

If there was an accident, you would need to show evidence of reasonable measures taken to control the risks, e.g. that the student had been advised of potential risks and control measures, or that appropriate levels of supervision and training had been provided where necessary.

A separate risk assessment, specifically for work experience students, is not necessary as long as your existing assessment already considers the specific factors for young people. There is no requirement to re-assess the risks each time you take on a new work experience student, provided the new student has no particular or additional needs. The Careers Department will update you with any medical/health conditions, disabilities or learning difficulties that the student has before the start of the placement.

If you do not currently employ a young person, have not done so in the last few years, or are taking on a work experience student for the first time, or one with particular needs, you will need to assess the risks **before** a young person starts work or work experience.

In **low-risk environments** such as offices or shops, this need not cover everyday risks familiar to the student, as your existing arrangements for other employees should be enough. Assurance can be gained through conversations or past experiences.

For environments with **risks less familiar** to the student (e.g. in light assembly or packing facilities), you will need to make arrangements to manage the risks – this will include induction, supervision, site familiarisation, and any protective equipment needed.

For a placement in a **higher-risk environment**, such as construction, agriculture and manufacturing, you will need to: consider what work the student will be doing or observing, the risks involved in that work and how these are managed and satisfy yourself that the instruction, training and supervisory arrangements have been properly thought through and that they work in practice.

You may, particularly for higher-risk environments, need to consider **specific factors** that must be managed for young people, including exposure to radiation, noise and vibration, toxic substances or extreme temperatures. Where these specific factors exist in your workplace you should already have control measures in place. This will also apply to legally required age limits on the use of some equipment and machinery (e.g., forklift trucks and some woodworking machinery). Consider whether you need to do anything further to control the risks to young people.

You should record your significant findings, keeping it simple, focusing on controls and bringing them to the attention of those at risk. It should cover the job, its suitability and the measures taken to protect/control the student, taking into account their age, inexperience, immaturity, lack of awareness and any medical/health conditions, disabilities and learning difficulties they may have. You must not allow the young person to do the work where you find that a significant risk remains in spite of your best efforts to take all reasonable steps to control it. You will be asked to supply a copy of the key findings of the risk assessment and the control measures taken **before** the young person can start work experience. The information will be shared with parents/carers/guardians as necessary.

Checks by the school will be kept in proportion with the risk environment, however, the Careers Department may

request a site visit to satisfy themselves that the placement is suitable for the allocated student. All relevant supervisors/mentors must be made aware of the agreed student needs, tasks and risk assessments.

12. Sole Traders / Employers with less than 5 Employees

Sole Traders and/or employers with less than 5 employees are not legally required to hold ELI or have a written health and safety policy.

Whilst we are grateful for all placement offers, we must put our students' health, safety, and welfare first and therefore it is with regret that we are unable to take up offers of work experience from businesses without the appropriate insurances and policies in place, (unless you are closely related to the student, see Section 10).

If you are not related to the student, you may still participate in our work experience programme, providing that you are willing to obtain temporary ELI cover, at your own cost, for the duration of work experience.

You will need to provide an appropriate written risk assessment before the student starts. Copies of both the ELI and risk assessment must be forwarded to the Careers Department as soon as possible to share with parents/carers/guardians before the placement can be approved. The Health and Safety Executive has further information on managing risks for young workers, along with some example risk assessments and templates to help you: <https://www.hse.gov.uk/young-workers/employer/risks.htm>.

If you will be working on a one-to-one basis with the student and are not related, you may also require a DBS check. <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/disclosure-and-barring-service>.

You may request that parents/carers/guardians cover any additional costs (i.e. ELI premium and/or DBS check) as a result of providing their child with a work experience placement.

13. Safeguarding

Safeguarding (including Child Protection) means protecting against abuse and non-accidental injury to all young people under the age of 18.

You do not need a Child Protection Policy, however, you are responsible for the social and physical welfare of the student during work experience and should be aware of child protection issues, particularly responsibility under the Criminal Justice and Court Service Act 2000 to disclose the names of individuals who are disqualified from working with children, where they are known to you.

For adults working with young people, particularly those below the age of 16, it is important to consider your location, the student's travel arrangements and access to any confidential material they may have. You may need to review your Young Person Risk Assessment to ensure adequate safeguarding measures and controls are in place before the student starts with you.

It is becoming increasingly easy to access many people online, i.e. Facebook, Instagram etc. Please remind employees that handing out personal details for social websites to individuals on a placement, or requesting personal details from the student, could be both inappropriate and dangerous, particularly as both parties would be relatively unknown to each other.

Whilst it is important to reassure a young person who may be nervous and particularly reliant on your guidance, you should avoid being over familiar. Instructions should be given to all employees in relation to bullying, inappropriate behaviour, horseplay and language, where potentially difficult situations could arise causing embarrassment, misunderstanding or fear.

Relevant staff should be briefed on basic safeguarding issues and how to handle them. Occasionally a young person may disclose confidential information to a work colleague that gives cause for concern for their physical or emotional safety. In such situations you should refer to your own safeguarding policy/designated person or speak to John Tunaley, the Designated Safeguarding Lead at Northgate on 01473 210123.

The need for one-to-one work in an isolated or closed environment with a single adult should be avoided wherever possible. In the vast majority of placements, as you and your employees will not have regular unsupervised access with the student, there is no need for DBS checks to take place. However, a DBS check will be required where a student is to have substantial unsupervised contact with an employee or supervisor on a one-to-one basis, particularly if located in an isolated environment, whilst travelling or where the placement has a residential element. You are responsible for identifying if a DBS check is required and for organising it. Further information can be found on the following website: <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/disclosure-and-barring-service>.

Children under the age of 16 do not require DBS checks.

14. Equality and Diversity

Work related learning should be made equally available to all, irrespective of academic ability, race, gender, age, disability, religion and belief, ethnicity, national origin or sexual orientation. Employers are required to comply with the Equality Act 2010 that bans unfair treatment and helps achieve equal opportunities in the workplace and wider society.

15. Data Protection

During the process, you will be given personal information about the student that should remain confidential and safeguarded in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998. Parents/carers/guardians are aware that this information will be shared with you for the purposes of health and safety in the workplace. The information given must only be disclosed to another party when and where appropriate, for instance if treatment is required for a known medical condition or in the case of a medical emergency. Any information regarding the student should be destroyed once the placement has concluded.

16. The Process

Students may be placed with you either through a direct placement, or an allocated placement.

Direct Placements - If you haven't already offered a placement to the school but a student approaches you directly, you may arrange the placement directly with them in line with the information below.

Once you have agreed to take a student on work experience, the student will upload your details to Unifrog. You will receive an email from Unifrog asking you to complete the employer placement details on the Unifrog platform. This confirms who you are, where the student will be working, what they will be doing, when they will be doing it and who will be responsible for them. This is the main point of reference between Northgate High School and your organisation.

Allocated Placements - If you have already offered (or intend to offer) a placement to the school for student allocation, please avoid arranging the placement with a student directly if they approach you. Please refer them to the Careers Department so they can apply for the placement through the school's 'Work Experience Job Board' in accordance with the school's processes, to avoid duplication and ensure equality and fairness to all students.

If you are offering a work experience placement to the school to be allocated to a student via our Work Experience Job Board, we ask that you complete and return to the Careers Department the Employer Placement Form. The information provided will be transferred onto a 'job card' and advertised on our Work Experience Job Board. Students will have the opportunity to apply for the placement when the job board goes 'live' in February. Students can select up to three placements of their choice by submitting to the school a CV and cover letter in application.

Before the Easter holidays, the Careers Department will sift through the applications and match your placement to the right student(s) according to their preferences. If the placement is over-subscribed, then the allocation will be considered based on the strength of the CV and cover letter received in application for the placement. Direct placements will automatically be allocated to the corresponding student.

Once a student has been allocated to your placement, you will be notified of who will be joining you along with their emergency contact details and any relevant medical/health information. The student will then upload your information to Unifrog. You will receive an email from Unifrog asking you to complete the employer placement details on the Unifrog platform. This confirms who you are, where the student will be working, what they will be doing, when they will be doing it and who will be responsible for them.

Once students have been notified of their placement allocation they cannot change it. However, this is not to say there is not the odd exception, but you will be updated if this is the case.

It is the student's responsibility to contact you before work experience starts to thank you for the placement, introduce themselves and/or arrange a convenient time to attend an informal meeting/interview. It is recommended that you meet with the student before the start of work experience, however, this is entirely at your discretion and you can be as formal or informal as you like. It is a good opportunity to meet the student that has been allocated to you and ensure they are suitable for the placement that you are offering. It is also a valuable learning experience for the student. You can clarify your expectations and re-check your risk assessment based on the student's ability/experience. If the allocated student does not make contact or does not attend an interview you have requested, please inform the Careers Department so we can follow this up in school.

If you feel after the interview/meeting that the student is not suitable, or the placement is not appropriate, for the student, you do not have to offer them the placement. You should contact the Careers Department as soon as possible so they can work with the student and re-allocate your placement as necessary. You can explain to the student why they are not suitable for the placement if you feel comfortable doing this, or the Careers Department can pass on the feedback. Constructive feedback to the student is a useful way for them to learn about the world of work and develop/improve for the future.

It may seem a long time away for work experience to begin, however, there is a lot of background work to place over 250 students each year. Your help in providing any information requested at your earliest convenience would be much appreciated. Other schools will also be competing for your placements, so please remember to put us in the diary early to avoid double booking and let your colleagues know you are expecting a work experience student if you decide to move on from the company!

17. During Work Experience

During the placement, the student will have a Work Experience Logbook to record their experiences each day. They can record their personal objectives and keep a note of the work that they do and the skills they develop. There are also some research challenges to complete, to help students find out more about your business and what it takes to work there. You may be able to help them complete these challenges. If a student does not have a logbook when they arrive, please contact the Careers Department at Northgate.

On the first day, welcome the student and carry out an induction. This is a good opportunity to get to know the young person; where you can start to build a good relationship, understand their previous experience, talk about the expectations on each side, identify areas for development, establish their goals and allow space for them to ask questions. The induction is best given during the student's first tour of the areas in which they will be working and should include clear instructions on workplace hazards and their control, fire, emergencies, first aid, accident reporting and security arrangements. ***There is a Health and Safety Checklist in the student's logbook for you to complete with them.***

Show the student to their work area and explain about the welfare arrangements such as eating/drinking arrangements, breaks, toilets and where to put their personal belongings. Explain that they may need to turn their mobile phone off whilst they are at work and discuss what may or may not be posted (comments, photos etc.) on any social media sites by the student – before, during and after the placement.

The student may leave your premises during lunch or break periods if permission has been granted by their parents/carers/guardians; this will be indicated on the parental consent form that has been completed in Unifrog. Please be aware that students can sometimes feel quite isolated during breaks and lunch periods, especially if they are some distance from the town centre or friends and family. They may wish to complete the

tasks in their logbooks during these times.

Introduce the student to key contacts in the organisation, so they do not feel isolated and are known to other staff.

Give the student a short job description of the tasks they will cover during their placement. Assess their knowledge and adjust the job description if necessary. As far as possible students should undertake real tasks to give them an idea of the work carried out by your business. They should learn how the company is organised. Some students may observe the more complicated parts of running a company and gain an understanding of how enterprise, creativity and innovation help business growth.

Discuss objectives and expectations with the student and be supportive of any projects or assignments they may have. You could ask them directly if they have any suggestions for what they would like to do, or improvements they think could be made within your business. Encourage them to ask questions whenever they are in doubt about anything. They may well be shy and reluctant to ask which can lead to mistakes and knock the student's self-confidence.

Monitor and review the progress the student has achieved. Encourage the student to reflect on what they have learned on a daily basis and how these new skills could enhance their CV. They should record this in their Work Experience Logbook.

Ensure the student is treated as a young adult who is making a valuable contribution to the team. Give them any useful documents you may have, for instance a map of the building if they have to run errands from one department to another, or a short list of contacts and telephone numbers of people they may have to phone.

You may arrange to take the student on site visits and other activities associated with the work experience placement. You will need permission from their parent/carer/guardian. You should ensure a risk assessment has been conducted, the student is suitably supervised and appropriate transport and insurances are in place. Consider whether a DBS check is necessary. You must notify the parent/carer/guardian of the arrangements i.e. leave and return times and any lunch or monetary requirements.

On the last day, where possible, you should meet with the student to discuss their placement. You may wish to discuss the following:

- The student's achievements - offer positive feedback and constructive criticism
- Lessons learned
- How does the experience relate to their education and career plans?
- If there are there any positions coming up the company that the student may be interested in

Please complete the Employer's Statement section in the student's Work Experience Logbook at the end of the placement. This is very useful for the student as it can be used in the future as a reference for CV writing.

Monitoring:

A staff representative from Northgate will telephone on the **FIRST DAY** of the work experience placement to ensure that the student has arrived safely.

The staff representative will arrange a mutually convenient time to visit/telephone both the student and their supervisor later in the placement to discuss and review their progress. Please let the student know which staff member is due to visit/call and when they will be coming – students often find knowing this reassuring.

The Northgate representative will need to discuss progress in confidence with both the student and their supervisor in two separate interviews for approx. 10 to 15 minutes each. A reasonably quiet space will be required.

Monitoring forms will be used to record discussions, and a copy retained by each party.

You may be asked to complete a work experience process feedback form. This will enable the Careers Department to analyse any suggested recommendations/improvements to our work experience programme.

18. What If Things Go Wrong?

Students are reminded before they start their placement that, whilst they are on work experience, they are a representative of Northgate High School and as such, we expect the highest standards of punctuality, attendance, good manners, appearance, behaviour and reliability. We expect students to observe and adhere to your codes of conduct in the workplace and follow the instructions of the workplace staff at all times.

Students on work placements are classed as employees and should be subject to discipline at work in the same way as employees. Although incidents are very infrequent, you must report any unacceptable behaviour or serious misconduct to the Careers Department immediately.

If you consider it necessary to suspend or terminate the placement for any reason before the specified time, the student must return to Northgate High School.

19. After Work Experience

Students are requested to write and thank you for their placement.

We are continually reviewing the work experience process and appreciate your feedback on improving the programme. Please contact the Careers Leader with your thoughts and suggestions. We hope that you would like to be involved in the programme again next year, and will be back in touch in the Autumn term.

20. Sources, References, and Information

- GOV.UK - Employer guides to work experience - https://nationallibrary.info/globaldocument_download.asp?fileid=683
- DWP Work Experience: Employer Guide (2025) <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/employers-could-you-offer-work-experience/work-experience-employer-guide>
- Education Act 1996; 1996 c. 56; Part X; Chapter IV; Section 560 - <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1996/56/section/560>
- Association of British Insurers <https://www.abi.org.uk/products-and-issues/choosing-the-right-insurance/business-insurance/liability-insurance/employers-liability-insurance/work-experience-students/>
- Health and safety assessment for work experience placements – a good practice guide - <https://www.hse.gov.uk/young-workers/employer/work-experience.htm>.
- Work-Related Learning and the Law - http://dera.ioe.ac.uk/5356/7/dfesworkrlaltedlearningandthelaw2006-2_Redacted.pdf
- Not just making tea: a guide to work experience - <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/not-just-making-tea-a-guide-to-work-experience#>
- Work experience: changes to government policy - <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/work-experience-changes-to-government-policy>
- Business and schools: building the world of work together - <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/business-and-schools-building-the-world-of-work-together>

Copies of all Work Experience documentation can be found on our school's website:

<https://www.northgate.suffolk.sch.uk/students/careers/year-10-work-experience>