

Case study

**Ashwood Spencer
Primary School**

8th December 2020 – In-person
Where does my job take me

Aims:

- Raise Aspirations
- Help children widen their horizons with careers that involve travel
- Facilitate session to allow children to see career progression and link this in with school subjects



The Our Future Derby programme

As part of the Derby Opportunity area DfE funding programme, the Learn by Design team joined the pupils Ashwood Spencer Primary School, Derby; a designated primary school chosen for the Our Future Derby programme. The programme's aims are to help raise children's aspirations and open a world of greater possibilities to them, their families, and their teachers. With Learn by Design coordinating and delivering workshops and activities to the schools, this is the opportunity for children to connect with local employers and learn about the many different and diverse jobs available in Derby.



Planning the Day

We worked with the school's Career Related Learning Champion to plan a three-class geography-themed event.

The 'Where has my job taken me' activities involved careers ambassadors sharing fun stories of travel and their experience of different cultures. The volunteers emphasised the importance of learning another language whilst at school to aid and widen career choices in later life.

The events were posted on the Primary Futures Portal (<https://educationandemployersprogrammes.force.com/>) to secure Career Volunteers to support the session.

We managed to gain some rather fabulous volunteers, including:

- **A female Language Translator and Author from an English background who learnt three languages – German, Spanish and French as an adult!**
- **Three Army Officers including a Warrant Officer Medic, Soldier, and a Corporal Driver.**

School Demographics

Ashwood Spencer Primary School is a three-form entry Primary school with an above average Pupil Premium population. The school has pupils from diverse backgrounds from a disadvantaged area of Derby

We focussed on working with Year 5, which consisted of three classes of 30.

8th December - Where does my job take me.

At the beginning of the day, an assembly was held focussing on careers and the eight skills for success and future goals. This began by asking the children to talk to their partners and come up with some questions to ask the careers volunteers to find out where they have travelled to and what they do.

A brief introduction was made where the volunteers were introduced by name only and the children were tasked with guessing each of the volunteer's role by asking close-ended questions with yes/no answers. In the middle of the game, a prop was shown to help the children narrow down the roles. Some of the roles were easier to guess whereas others were a little trickier. The children were fascinated to learn that you could learn languages as an adult, with language learning opening many doors for our language translator volunteer.

The volunteers were asked some brilliant questions including:

“ *What is the most challenging part of being away from home on your job?*
How long did it take to learn a language?
What is the best thing about your job and travelling?
What subjects link in with your job? ”

The importance of school subjects was emphasised throughout the event and linked throughout in discussion.

The next session worked with the children in smaller groups where they rotated around the hall spending some time with each of the ambassadors.

The Army had brought along with them their Army kit, bag, hats, and more army equipment. This proved brilliant in piquing the children's interest as they got to try on the equipment.

The children enjoyed the event so much, that when it was time to end, we heard lots of groans and murmurs of 'it's not fair, the time went so quick! I wanted it to be longer.'



The Outcome

The quotes below summarise the success of the event. We had some pupils who prior to the event, did not have high aspirations. They were inspired by our volunteers and hoped to go into similar careers to them.

Key messages included:

- *The importance of working hard at school to achieve success in your career.*
- *There are no gender specific roles - boys and girls can both do the same jobs.*
- *Languages can be learnt at any age and open many doors.*

Feedback:

Careers Champion Feedback -

'What an incredible day – thank you to you all! Emphasising school subjects was great as it will hopefully get students to understand there is a purpose to each lesson. Our children will take a lot away from meeting the volunteers and professionals and it really does raise aspirations.'

Language Translator/Author -

'Thank you for all that you are doing! It's lovely to see how the pupils really were fascinated by languages.'

Soldier -

'This is a way of hopefully inspiring children and engaging with the future workforce.'

Army Medic -

'The children and teachers learnt more about my job role and the organisation. I found it extremely worthwhile and look forward to future events.'

Army Corporal Driver -

'It was great to have the chance for the children to gain an understanding of multiple job roles at one workshop. It would have been brilliant to have longer with each volunteer.'

Quotes from the pupils of Ashwood Spencer Primary School:

'I want to be the same as him' [pointing to Kev, the Army Medic]

'I do not like school but now I want to work hard and become a soldier when I am older'

'I loved trying on the Army equipment. I enjoyed asking questions and learn new things. I was amazed that the soldiers had met the Queen!

The Armour was so heavy! I loved picking it up. The sleeping bag was the heaviest.'

'I learnt that the Army driver brings supplies to the Medic who works with the Engineer and they all work as a team!'

'I've been inspired to learn languages as I want to do more than one job and have different jobs where you need to speak different languages. After joining the Army, I want to have a stall in another country and speak the language.'

'I have enjoyed everything about today! I didn't know how heavy Army equipment was before!'

'Today has been really fun. I have learnt that the Army travel a lot and how important languages are.'

