



Careers and Work Related Learning (WRL) at Mary Elliot School

Here at Mary Elliot School our motto is “Preparing for Life” and with our careers and work related learning we aim to achieve just that. Work Related Learning at Mary Elliot School provides focused support, guidance and experience aimed at preparation for adult life within the school and beyond.

Mary Elliot School believes that it is important for all of our students to gain experience and knowledge of the world outside the school. To this end all groups undertake enterprise activities culminating in sales at the Christmas and Summer Fairs. All students have the opportunity to take part in off-site activities which enable them to encounter and experience the world of work in our local community. Practical opportunities exist within school where there are long term projects such as the tuck shop, breakfast café and stock taking / ordering of care supplies. This is undertaken by groups of students throughout the school aimed at giving them work experience in house. There are also a number of students within the school who access supported work experience placements in the local area.

Education Health and Care Plans are central to planning allowing for a review process where PFA (Preparing for Adulthood) priorities are addressed as part of the annual review process. This enables more focused support and guidance to be provided to students, parents and carers from a variety of professionals.

The nature of the individual needs of our students often mean that opportunities upon leaving school are often limited. These opportunities fall into three broad categories.

- Continuing Education.
- Social Care & Supported Living.
- Vocational training & Supported employment.

Preparing to Continue in Education:

Mary Elliot School has links with a number of local colleges. These include Wolverhampton College, Walsall College, South Staffordshire College and Trinity College. We have successfully supported students to transition on to all of these colleges.

Our college links programme is currently based at the Bilston campus of Wolverhampton College. Students involved in the link programme attend a weekly integrated taster day through which they learn what it is like to attend a supported further education provision.



Preparing For Social Care & Supported Living

Many of our students are supported by social care providers when they leave school. This often entails full time social care provision and for some of our students may include residential care or supported living.

Mary Elliot school works closely with Catherine Care and other social care providers. Before starting any transition work with students and families Catherine Care will initially visit students to gauge educational and personal needs.

Currently we have a group of students who undertake supported weekly taster sessions at the Catherine Care day provision. Where they gain experience of what it is like to attend a social care provision, and develop the skills needed to help them engage and succeed if they do attend a social care setting after leaving school.

Preparing For Supported Employment or Vocational Training.

In addition to Work Related Learning Mary Elliot School is developing a work experience programme. Work experience takes place at Chase Water Country Park, starting initially with supported placements in the Craft Barn.

Our learners gain experience of retail, customer service, stock taking and manufacturing roles. The Craft Barn is a recycling based "Scrap Store" operated by Saxon Hill School and is also open to the general public. We are delighted to be working with Saxon Hill School on this project.

Internal work experience opportunities also exist which involve working alongside staff within Mary Elliot School. As students become more confident and independent some are able to undertake placements as support staff at Old Hall School.

Mary Elliot School are keen to further develop work experience and supported employment opportunities within the Walsall area. We are part of the newly formed Walsall Inclusion Strategic Board - Post 16 Strategy Group.