

# LifeSkills: supporting you to achieve the Gatsby Benchmarks

 **BARCLAYS** | LifeSkills



LifeSkills has a wealth of content to support you to deliver an engaging and impactful careers programme. From lessons and educator guides to interactive tools, which students can use independently or in a group, the content brings employability skills to life across the curriculum.

LifeSkills content can contribute to your planning for the Gatsby Charitable Foundation's Benchmarks. Other sources of information you might find useful when putting together your careers programme have also been indicated. Follow the links to easily access all the relevant content.

Gatsby Foundation Benchmark*	Gatsby Foundation Summary*	Sources which can support your planning
<p><b>1. A stable Careers Programme</b></p>	<p>Every school should have an embedded programme of careers education and guidance that is known and understood by pupils, parents and carers, staff, governors, employers and other agencies.</p>	<p><a href="#">LifeSkills resources</a> Discover lesson plans, interactive tools, films and more to help you embed employability skills into the curriculum and support your young people to succeed in the world of work.</p> <p><a href="#">Schemes of learning and planning for progression</a> Explore our schemes of learning and progression maps for inspiration on how our curriculum-linked resources can be sequenced to help build students' knowledge and skills over time and show progression.</p> <p><a href="#">Educator CPD, Support and Blogs</a> Explore our blogs and support articles to hear from experts and collaborators on their experience of supporting learners with employability skills, and hints and tips to help you make the most of the LifeSkills programme.</p> <p><a href="#">LifeSkills Award</a> The LifeSkills Award recognises institutions which use the programme to promote employability teaching and go above and beyond to prepare their young people for the world of work. Apply for the award to demonstrate your commitment to embedding careers across the curriculum</p>
<p><b>2. Learning from career and labour market information</b></p>	<p>All pupils, parents and carers, teachers and staff who support pupils should have access to good-quality, up-to-date information about future pathways, study options and labour market opportunities. Young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) and their parents and carers may require different or additional information. All pupils will need the support of an informed adviser to make the best use of available information.</p>	<p><a href="#">Core transferable skills</a> LifeSkills resources help you develop the core transferable skills which are needed for the jobs of the future, so students are prepared for their next steps and feel ready for future employment opportunities. This includes dedicated resources to support learners with SEND which are all available in our curriculum linked guide.</p> <p>Other sources of support which highlight employability trends can be accessed here:</p> <p><a href="#">Future of work webinar</a> Hear from an expert panel including business leaders, researchers, charity founders and recent graduates and a careers leader and assistant headteacher on how core transferable skills can 'futureproof' young people and how educators can use LifeSkills resources to unlock students' potential.</p>

\*[gatsbybenchmarks.org.uk](https://gatsbybenchmarks.org.uk)

### [Employability skills trends](#)

Using research from over 10 years of LifeSkills, we compiled our learnings, conversations with learners and educators, and outlined how the programme will continue to ensure all learners have the right skills to navigate the future world of work.

### 3. Addressing the needs of each young person

Pupils have different careers guidance needs at different stages. Careers programmes should help pupils navigate their concerns about any barriers to career progression. In addition, opportunities should be tailored to the needs of each pupil, including any additional needs of vulnerable and disadvantaged pupils, young people with SEND and those who are absent.

### [SEND adapted content](#)

LifeSkills has adapted a core set of lessons to be suitable for young people with special educational needs and disabilities to help make employability skills accessible for all.

### [Care leavers adapted content](#)

As a signatory to the Care Leaver Covenant, LifeSkills has adapted a suite of financial education resources for young people leaving care, support care leavers with building the confidence to achieve financial stability.

### [Skills Builder assessment](#)

The Skills Builder assessment could provide the basis of a conversation with a careers advisor, helping students to talk about areas they feel strongest in and can support you to track progress in skills development.

### 4. Linking curriculum learning to careers

As part of the school's programme of careers education, all teachers should link curriculum learning with careers. Subject teachers should highlight the progression routes for their subject and the relevance of the knowledge and skills developed in their subject for a wide range of career pathways.

### [Content guide](#)

Our guide provides a link between the curriculum of each of the four nations and LifeSkills content, so you can embed employability across your subject teaching. Examples include maths with our Money skills resources, and PSHE through exploring personal strengths and building confidence content.

### [Schemes of learning and planning for progression](#)

Our schemes of learning show curated sequences of lessons across key themes and can be delivered by individuals or through collaboration with colleagues in other departments – they have been designed to be cross-curricular and address themes across many subject areas.

### [Enterprise and entrepreneur resources](#)

Support students to develop enterprise skills and think like an entrepreneur with our suite of enterprise resources exploring innovative technologies and sustainability. In the Enterprise project challenge, students are encouraged to explore the world around them and create solutions for problems relating to some real businesses.

**5. Encounters with employers and employees**

Every pupil should have multiple opportunities to learn from employers about work, employment and the skills that are valued in the workplace. This can be through a range of enrichment opportunities, including visiting speakers, mentoring and enterprise schemes, and could include pupils' own part-time employment where it exists.

**Social action toolkit**

Inspire young people to get involved in social action to provide meaningful experiences with a range of organisations and the opportunity to develop skills that are transferrable to the workplace. This can be used to reinforce learnings from work placements.

**6. Experience of workplaces**

Every pupil should have first-hand experiences of workplaces to help their exploration of career opportunities and expand their networks.

**Work experience**

Barclays LifeSkills offers many ways for students to gain an understanding of the workplace, as well as building core transferable skills. We provide access to high-quality virtual workplace experiences to support students in finding out about different industries and jobs as well as resources such as a work experience log to encourage students to reflect on their experiences.

Through this page, you'll find everything you need to help your students explore, prepare and apply for work experience.

There are also a range of lesson plans and independent activities for students to get involved in exploring different industries:

- Access our [Interactive virtual work experience tool](#) which provides an insight into the workplace, specifically a digital transformation agency.
- Use our [Independent worksheet](#) along with BBC Bitesize case studies to help students explore different industries, jobs and skills and understand more about a range of workplaces.
- Use our [Independent Practise managing workplace challenges activity](#) exploring different job sectors and the skills required. We have also created teacher guidance to help provide feedback on their worksheets.
- [Work experience resources](#). We've compiled a list of organisations offering virtual work experience, mentoring programmes or social action opportunities, ready for you and your students to explore.

**7. Encounters  
with further and  
higher education**

All pupils should understand the full range of learning opportunities that are available to them, including academic, technical and vocational routes. This should incorporate learning in schools, colleges, independent training providers (ITPs), universities and in the workplace.

**UCAS**

To explore the range of Further and Higher education options with your students have a look at the UCAS site and find out about A-levels, apprenticeships, degrees and more. It also has details of how you can contact these organisations and opportunities to attend UCAS events.

**Advice map**

Encourage students to explore this interactive tool to reveal places to go for guidance and people to talk to for help choosing the right employment or training opportunity. It includes information on further education, apprenticeships, university, volunteering and jobs.

**8. Personal  
guidance**

Every pupil should have opportunities for guidance meetings with a careers adviser, who could be internal (a member of school staff) or external, provided they are trained to an appropriate level. These meetings should be available for all pupils whenever significant study or career choices are being made. They should be expected for all pupils but should be scheduled to meet their individual needs. The careers leader should work closely with the careers adviser, SEND coordinator (SENDCO) and other key staff to ensure personal guidance is effective and embedded in the careers programme.

**Educator CPD, Support and Blogs**

Explore our blogs and support articles for inspiration and ideas on how to support your learners as they plan their next steps.

**Wheel of Strengths**

LifeSkills has a range of student **tools** which can be used as an engaging and interactive part of guidance conversations to get students feeling inspired about their options. Wheel of Strengths is a tool designed to help students find out what job could suit them based on their skills, interests and personality traits. This could be used as an engaging and interactive part of guidance conversations to get students feeling inspired about their options.

**Skills tracker**

When working through any of our LifeSkills lessons, learners can use the Skills tracker to start documenting the skills they are building and reflect on how they can continue to practise them.

**Goal setting**

This lesson is designed to help students set achievable goals to work towards. It includes group discussions, SMART targets and motivational techniques.

**Aspirations**

This lesson is designed to help you support students who are leaving school and looking to transition into employment, further or higher education. The activities and discussion points in this lesson aim to serve as practical tools to help empower students as they explore different ways to plan.