CAREERS POLICY STATEMENT

At Silverwood School, we believe that every pupil deserves the opportunity to develop their skills, interests and aspirations in preparation for a fulfilling future. Our curriculum supports our intent to enable all our learners to flourish and thrive both within the school community but also in the wider community, both as pupils and then into adulthood. This is seen throughout our Values led curriculum and is typified in the wide range of opportunities that are offered to everyone to allow them to experience a personalised approach to learning that prepares them for adult life. This includes an expectation that every pupil will experience opportunities to practice work based and employability skills.

Every pupil at KS4 has at least yearly meetings where they discuss their future aspirations. This is typically conducted as part of their Annual Review. The aspirations that the pupils and their families share then support option choices for formal learners at Key Stage 4. Weekly PSHE/RSE lessons allow for Travel Training and support for access and guidance for adulthood, including career aspirations. For pre and semi-formal learners, a wide range of contextualised learning opportunities, focused on Preparation for Adulthood, are integrated into the curriculum, informed by the personalised targets set within each pupil's, EHCP. 'So safe' lessons are taught within the college environment to ensure pupils can stay safe in the community both through road safety, personal safety and stranger awareness.

Throughout the curriculum there are appropriate opportunities that are explicitly linked to employability skills and career opportunities. Typically, this is addressed within the existing curriculum, but as the pupils reach Key Stage 4, formal learners additionally access at least six themed days per year that address a range of employability and life skills that require discrete teaching. These days cover a range of topics including – choosing a job interview outfit, communication skills ready for interviews, mock interviews, visiting Post 16 providers, enterprise skills and developing skills to support independent living, including travel.

Opportunities are offered to interview adults with different jobs and to shadow them within the school community at Key Stage 4.

Work experience is arranged for formal learners in Year 11 and is supported by school staff for those pupils that require it. We then support pupils to pursue job opportunities that may then arise from these experiences. There is follow up work upon completion of work experience and successes celebrated and challenges reflected upon.

At Silverwood Sixth Form, learners are supported to consider their future aspirations in a supported way. The curriculum is designed to allow for a range of opportunities to develop awareness of and independence in skills needed for adulthood.

At Silverwood Sixth Form work experience is first initiated through the pupils following the Duke of Edinburgh accreditation. Pupils begin their work experience journey through volunteering opportunities in local charity shops, cafes and nursing homes. This can lead to personalised work experience for individual pupils.

At the Rowde Campus there are two ‘Enterprise Days’ per year, where every pupil supports the creation of products that are then sold in our Enterprise Shop. This allows every pupil to practice skills from designing, making, packaging and advertising a product and then with support pricing and selling items. Discussion around Fair Trade and environmental impact of products and processes is discussed as part of these days. At Silverwood Sixth Form students take part in a weekly Enterprise lesson making products to sell either at a termly coffee shop or at one of the local shops in the community. These products include candles, craft, oils, preserves and food. Pupils develop skills in customer interactions within these lessons; that can be built on in their next steps for Preparation for Adulthood.

We have a post 16 Coordinator who is also the Careers Lead to ensure that every pupil’s future is well planned and fully considered. We are proud to be a part of the Wiltshire Careers Hub and have strong links with an independent Enterprise Advisor and Employment and Skills Officer.

For Post-16 and Careers information please contact Emma Boore or Mike Terri Chard

emmaboore@silverwood.wilts.sch.uk

terrichard@silverwood.wilts.sch.uk