



When building a workforce, an employer will think deliberately and carefully about how to build a team that will work together to achieve a shared goal or vision. The resources in this section will equip students with ideas about how to work well with others and become a valuable addition to any team that an employer is looking to form.

The key topics covered are:

→ Dealing with responsibility

We all take on different types of responsibility throughout our lives. This page explores how to manage an increasing level of responsibility as you get older and how this can be used to demonstrate your reliability as an employee.

→ How to plan and respond to the unexpected

Life is full of the unexpected. This page looks at how young people can plan and prepare for such events in a positive and productive way.

→ Using your voice

We all have the power to effect change. This page encourages young people to think about how they can use their voice effectively, as well as top tips on how they can get their message across.

→ Team dynamics

Being a part of a winning team is one of the greatest feelings. This page looks at how young people can add to a positive group dynamic in order to reach a collective goal, and how this fundamental skill is also key to organisational success.

→ Respecting and understanding diversity

In an increasingly connected and global world, understanding diversity and inclusion is more important than ever. This page will cover the key terms students should understand when it comes to diversity and inclusion, as well as how they can promote diversity in a school/work environment.

We recommend exploring each page with your students; using the written content and user-generated videos to facilitate discussion and questions.

At the end of each page, you will also find a range of activities that you can work through with your students, or set as self-study, in order to apply what they've learnt into practice and reinforce the key teachings from the website.

Each set of activities ranges from a short activity which should take no more than 30 minutes, through to portfolio activities which are longer, project-based tasks.

Need some help on where to start?

We've put together a lesson plan to show how the content from the website can be used to build a one-hour careers lesson – perfect for PSHE/Form time!

Working with others

Lesson plan



Introduction

5 minutes

Demonstrate the M&G Skills for Life website and signpost students to the different resources available to support them in this lesson and when completing self-study.

Explain the aims and objectives of the lesson:

- To understand how to work effectively with others.
- To practice teamwork and leadership skills.
- To provide a space for students to develop their confidence in a group setting.

Some students enjoy working with others, while some are independent learners and find group work pushes them outside of their comfort zone. It may prove useful to write a community code to create a safe space, so all learners feel supported and confident in today's lesson.



Short activity

10 minutes

To start, play an icebreaker game with the group that focuses on teamwork. (This is adapted from the short activity on the page 'Team Dynamics').

One example could be the icebreaker: **Desert Island**.

This team building exercise uses a deserted island scenario. To prepare, grab a selection of random items from around the classroom. Try to pick as many varied items as you can to push students to think outside of the box.

Present the items to the students and split them into groups. The goal is for the groups to select one item they'd bring with them to a deserted island to help them survive.

After teams deliberate, allow each team to present which item they chose and why. You may also want to ask them how they worked as a team to reach their decision e.g., was there a natural leader in the group? Was there a moderator who helped facilitate discussion?

Exercises like the one above is not only fun for students, but also used in the workplace to build rapport, help teams understand what each person brings to the table, and the importance of group dynamics.

They also allow the workforce to practice key team skills such as critical thinking, problem-solving, communication and leadership.



Main activity

40 minutes

Follow by explaining to students that when they enter the world of work, it is likely that they will work with others towards a collective goal. They will now put this into practice (using the PSHE activity on the page 'Dealing with responsibility').

In groups, ask students to organise a fictional event.

- Each person in the group should be responsible for planning a specific part of the event. You may need to give guidance on roles.
- Set time for students to work on their event and then pitch it to the group (the planning committee). You will then approve or decline funding for the event based on their presentation.

Now ask students to reflect on how they dealt with the responsibility of their role in the group.

- Did they ask for support from, or offer support to, their team members, in order to share the workload and decrease the pressure from the time-limited task?

This is often how teams will work in businesses, collaboratively in order to meet a set (shared) goal and is what employers will want to see when hiring people to make up their workforce.



Summary

5 minutes

Provide a summary of today's lesson and congratulate students for working as a group. Being able to work well with others is an important skill for life. It is something that we all need to understand and develop throughout our careers.

Set students homework to explore the 'Working with others' resources in their own time and complete one or more of the activities from each page.

If you're using the Skills for Life student workbook with your students, make sure that they record their work for you to review. Each activity completed will earn them points which will accumulate to an award (Bronze, Silver, Gold).