Ashgate Croft School 'Futures' Parent/Carer Engagement Statement

Our Commitment to Parents/Carers

Our Careers programme at Ashgate Croft is fully aligned with the Gatsby Benchmarks and parent/carer involvement is key across all areas.

Careers at Ashgate Croft is defined as ***'Any activity which furthers the knowledge, understanding, skill or experience with the purpose of leading to life enhancing outcome, including improving the possibility & probability of working in a range of settings.'***

We aim to ensure a high quality of vocational and careers education for all our students, to be delivered in a meaningful and appropriate way for their needs and circumstances.

Through person centred planning with the Education, Health & Care (EHCP) plans at the centre, we support all our students to articulate their aspirations for adult life, including community inclusion, independence, their aspiration to work and promoting their physical and mental health. This also includes adults around our students, knowing the individual and their needs.

Our school vision is for all our students to become as independent as they can be and to be prepared for adulthood. We aim to give them every opportunity to reach their full potential whether that is to continue in further education, employment, or independent living.

How We Engage Parents/Carers across the Gatsby Benchmarks

1. A Stable Careers Programme

We publish a clear careers programme on our website and share regular updates via emails, newsletters and school apps. Parents/carers are invited to feedback and contribute to the ongoing development of the programme.

2. Learning from Career & Labour Market Information

We provide parents with access to up-to-date labour market information (LMI) and career pathways via the school newsletter, social media and events.

3. Addressing the Needs of Each Pupil

We communicate personalised career planning activities and post-16 options, and we support parents/carers to understand SEND pathways, EHCP transitions, and individual guidance plans.

4. Linking Curriculum Learning to Careers

Class teachers promote ‘building skills for life’ throughout the curriculum including the possibility & probability of working in a range of settings. We support parents to understand the range of options for their child to help them to make informed choices for the future.

5. Encounters with Employers and Employees

Parents/carers are invited & signposted to relevant open evenings, careers events and alumni talks. We also welcome parent volunteers from different employment sectors to collaborate with school projects.

6. Experiences of Workplaces

We inform parents of their child's experience of workplaces including internal & external work experience, workplace visits and encourage parents to feedback to the ongoing development of the programme.

7. Encounters with Further and Higher Education

We share information with parents/carers of local Post-16 Open Evenings where parents can meet representatives from local colleges, and supported internship providers. Information is also shared digitally for accessibility.

8. Personal Guidance

All pupils (for who it is appropriate for) receive at least one personal guidance interview with a Level 6 qualified Careers Adviser. Notes from the interview are sent home & parents/carers are encouraged to follow up on these discussions with their child.

Annual Events & Key Meetings

- **EHCP Review Meetings** From Year 9 onwards, every statutory review includes a discussion on preparing for adulthood.
- **Parent/Carer Evenings (Autumn & Spring)** Two opportunities each year to discuss pupil progress and future planning.
- **Information Evenings for Y9–Y11** Led by our Careers Leader, these sessions outline post-Year 11 options and pathways into Post-16 education.
- **Information Evenings for Y12–Y13** Focused on next steps after leaving school, including education, employment, and training options.
- **Annual 'What's Next?' SEND Event** Hosted at the Arkwright Centre by DEBP. Families receive invitations via school communications to explore education, social care, and employment pathways.

Useful information and resources can be found below to help guide you and your child as you explore post-16 options.

Helping and supporting children & young people with special educational needs and disabilities to be more confident in their communities and live independently.

https://www.localoffer.derbyshire.gov.uk/home.

Derbyshire
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Ongoing Support & Communication

- **Careers Leader Contact Info** Available on our website for ad-hoc queries about future options and planning.
- **Alumni Talks for Pupils** Inspiring sessions where former students share their journeys into further education and employment.
- **Local Provision Awareness** Our Careers Lead and Leadership Team actively seek out and share information about local opportunities with families.

Working Together for a Brighter Future

We believe that strong collaboration with parent carers is key to helping our pupils thrive beyond school.

For more information, visit our Careers & Futures page or contact our Careers Leader directly on (01246) 275111