Primary schools

A complete approach to building essential skills
Hi! We’re Enabling Enterprise.

We’re a passionate team who, like all teachers, want our students to thrive - both in the classroom and beyond it.

So we asked the question: what are the essential skills needed to flourish? After listening to teachers, universities and employers, we settled on eight:

- Listening
- Presenting
- Problem Solving
- Creativity
- Staying Positive
- Aiming High
- Leadership
- Teamwork

To help schools build these skills, we’ve created a comprehensive approach. First, we support staff with engaging training and the use of our powerful online tool, to gauge skill strengths and next steps.

Then we help schools transform skills through a combination of Lesson-time Projects, whole-school Challenge Days, and Trips to Employers. In each, students build their skills through exciting challenges linked to the real world.

We’ve seen the incredible impact first-hand on the students we support - over 250,000 to date, and joined by more every day. Thanks for taking the time to discover our work. We’d love you to join us.

The Enabling Enterprise Team

One day, all students will build the essential skills, experiences and aspirations to succeed.
How can we equip children with the essential skills they need to succeed - both at school and beyond?

In school, children frequently need to articulate their ideas, work with others, solve problems or organise themselves to achieve their goals. Teachers know that these skills are important: 97% say that essential skills are as or more important than academic qualifications, and 72% think their school should increase their focus on these skills. (Sutton Trust, 2017).

In employment, too, organisations consistently report that they prioritise the essential skills of school and college leavers (CBI, 2016).

In every case, students need to be skilled in communication, creative problem solving, self-management and collaboration. These skills are essential for success; and to truly equip children for the future, we must start building these skills from Primary age.

The six principles

We’ve developed and refined our approach to make it easy for teachers and students to build essential skills. We’ve put together six simple principles - our approach in a nutshell.

1. **Keep it simple.** Teachers and students have a lot to think about. We keep language clear and consistent, and follow a simple framework so everyone is on the same page.

2. **Start young, keep going.** These are complex, lifelong skills that need time to blossom, so we start from Early Years and keep going. This allows the skills to unlock other learning too.

3. **Measure it.** We take tracking progress seriously: it ensures a balanced understanding of strengths and weaknesses, allowing teachers to decide their next steps.

4. **Focus tightly.** We give the skills their own dedicated learning time, otherwise they can quickly be lost in a sea of other objectives.

5. **Keep practising.** Outside of their dedicated lessons, we support lots of opportunities to apply the skills to different situations. This way, they become genuinely transferable.

6. **Bring it to life.** The skills are for use in the real world, so we make those links by taking students out of the classroom and bringing real-life problems and challenges into lessons.

At school, students often need to:
- articulate ideas
- solve problems
- organise to achieve goals
- work with others

At university or college, young people have to use these skills much more independently.

In employment, essential skills are often prioritised above academic qualifications.
Since 2009, we’ve built a national partnership of schools and employers to provide a complete programme for building essential skills - and applying them in the wider world.

Our employer partners
We work with over 130 great employers covering a range of sectors - including:

- Construction & Manufacture
- Retail & Logistics
- Health & Social Care
- Professional & Business Services
- Creative Industries
- And many others...

Parliamentary Review of our work
Enabling Enterprise was recently recognised as an element of best practice at Wormholt Primary School in the Parliamentary Review:

"An important aspect in ensuring that children are equipped with transferrable skills, which will equip them not just for secondary school but for life, is the delivery of our Enabling Enterprise programme... These experiences allow children to gain a flavour of the world of work and possibly sow the seeds for a future career!"

Wormholt Primary, Parliamentary Review, Highlighting Best Practice 2017
Training and Support

Our team of outstanding qualified teachers help your staff to build their confidence in teaching essential skills and supporting students’ progress.

Lesson-time Projects

Lesson-time Projects bring your students’ learning to life, giving them a chance to develop and apply new essential skills, while widening their understanding of the world of work.

Our four-part programme...

Our offering is in four parts, which together form a comprehensive programme for effectively building students’ essential skills.

1. Lesson-time Projects
2. Challenge Days
3. Trips to Employers
4. Training and Support

... based on the Skills Builder Framework

The Skills Builder framework breaks down each skill into teachable and measurable chunks - and includes a powerful online assessment tool.

Trips to Employers

Trips help students make the crucial link between the skills built in class and the working world. They meet volunteers from a range of organisations and work together to get a flavour of the industry.

Challenge Days

Challenge Days provide an exciting and engaging way for students across a class, a year group or even the whole school to work together and use their essential skills.
The Skills Builder framework underpins our programmes. It takes each of the eight skills and breaks them down into teachable and learnable nuggets - from the age of three through to adulthood.

It’s the centrepiece of our programmes, drawing together the expertise of more than fifty leading individuals and organisations. It’s been independently reviewed twice, and used with over 250,000 learners.

**Step by step**

We map out exactly what success looks like at each age. This means we can ensure students are on the right trajectory - or, preferably, well above it. For example, here are three steps of progress for the Listening skill:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Step</th>
<th>Age Range</th>
<th>Listening Skills</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>5/6 years</td>
<td>I can listen to adults, follow instructions and tell you what I heard.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>11/12 years</td>
<td>I can analyse how a speaker uses language and gesture to engage the audience.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>16/17 years</td>
<td>I can identify underlying themes, implications and issues when listening.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Online assessment tool**

Our easy-to-use web tool helps teaching staff to assess their students quickly and view their data clearly.

Teachers can track the progress of their students by doing straightforward online assessments. The system will generate informative graphs and even create small report summaries.

**Impact by the numbers**

The data we collect with the Skills Builder assessment tools has allowed us to see our impact in detail. As students get older without explicitly building these skills, the gap between the age expectation and their ability widens - but our programmes can close that gap.

Ofsted have recognised the value of our programmes in a number of schools. Here’s an extract from a recent inspection report:

> The school is genuinely inclusive in its approach and gives all pupils access to a very wide range of opportunities for personal development. For example, taking part in the Enabling Enterprise programme gave pupils the chance to develop skills in planning and teamwork, as well as insight into the engineering and construction industries.

‘Outstanding’ Ofsted Report - Willow Brook Primary Academy - June 2017
Willow Brook joined us in 2014, following a ‘Requires Improvement’ rating.
Training and Support

Our team of outstanding qualified teachers help your staff to build their confidence in teaching essential skills and supporting students’ progress.

Examples of whole-school training sessions

Embedding the skills
How can essential skills be embedded into every part of the school curriculum?

Essential skills walks
How can we celebrate best practice and high standards while supporting development?

Examples of specialist training sessions

Community engagement
How can we engage parents and the wider community in building essential skills?

Effective classroom support
How can we make sure all classroom staff support essential skill development?

We also provide the materials to bring essential skills building into every classroom, including:

Display materials
Resources to display in the classroom or around the school to reinforce the skills.

Award certificates
Certificates to celebrate students’ achievements in developing the skills.

Assembly materials
Prepared assemblies that focus on one or more of the skills and their application.

Classroom activities
Short activities with printable table resources designed to develop specific skills.

What schools say

The teachers have welcomed the Skills Builder training and ideas for lessons in their classes. Enabling Enterprise has been an invaluable resource - so supportive and enthusiastic!

St. Anne’s RC Primary School, Crumpsall
Lesson-time Projects

Lesson-time Projects bring your students’ learning to life, giving them a chance to develop and apply their skills, while widening their understanding of the world of work.

There are three projects per year group, each with 10 hours of content - perfect for an hour a week, or delivering in shorter ‘blocks’.

Examples of Lesson-time Projects

**Free To Be Me · Early Years Foundation Stage**
Students explore what they’re good at and transform themselves into a superhero, while discovering the skills of Aiming High and Presenting.

**Brilliant Bakes · Early Years Foundation Stage**
Students build Staying Positive and Problem Solving skills by tracing the journey from ingredients to final product - capped off by running their own pop-up bakery.

**Postal Service · Key Stage 1**
Students learn about the postal service and the skills workers use. With their Creativity and Listening skills, they’ll set up their own school post.

**Community Café · Key Stage 1**
Students explore how they can help the school community, before building their Teamwork and Problem Solving by planning and running their own café.

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**Narrative**
What teachers say

“"The projects are always engaging and incorporate many cross-curricular skills... [developing] a deeper understanding of how to work together and support each other."

Teacher, Brackenbury Primary School
Challenge Days provide an exciting and engaging way for students across a class, a year group or even the whole school to work together and use their essential skills. They’re an ideal opportunity to involve parents, too.

The challenges include everything you need to make the day a success, with videos to launch each section, as well as support from us on the day.

**Examples of Challenge Days**

**Operation Moonbase** · EYFS, KS1 & KS2
Students create a new Moon society from scratch, stretching their Teamwork and Creativity skills by designing the city and recruiting an exploratory team.

**A Day in Politics** · EYFS, KS1 & KS2
Students develop Leadership and Problem Solving skills while learning about democracy and politics through setting up their own political parties.

**Creative Spaces** · EYFS, KS1 & KS2
Students use their Presenting and Creativity skills to design a new arts centre, celebrating and promoting creativity in the community.

**Future Transport** · EYFS, KS1 & KS2
Students design, make and test a new type of futuristic transport for land or air - perfect for developing Aiming High and Problem Solving skills.

**Business in a Day** · KS2
Students create a souvenir company, exploring enterprise from start to finish and putting their Teamwork and Staying Positive skills into action.

**Social Entrepreneur** · KS2
Students identify a need or challenge in their school or community and develop ideas to solve it. Their Listening and Staying Positive skills will be vital here.

**What students say**

“...My favourite part of the day was designing and building our prototype because we got to use our imagination and research skills - and it turned out brilliantly!"

*Year 4 student, Tyssen Community School (after Future Transport)*
Trips help students make the crucial link between the skills built in class and the working world. They meet volunteers from a range of organisations and work together on a challenge to get a flavour of the industry.

Examples of previous trips

**Societe Generale**
*Professional & Business Services*

After a crash course in finance, students learned about investment practice and used their *Presenting* skills to pitch a sweet shop venture.

**BuroHappold**
*Construction & Manufacturing*

Students toured the engineering firm, getting an incredible look at 3D printing. Then they used *Problem Solving* skills to design a skyscraper.

**White Stuff**
*Retail & Logistics*

After learning about the range of careers at this fashion retail brand, students built *Teamwork* skills by finding smart solutions to retail problems.

**Forward3D**
*Creative Industries*

Students started by talking to volunteers about their roles at this marketing agency, before using their *Aiming High* skills to invent innovative gadgets.

**Guy’s & St. Thomas’ Hospital**
*Health & Social Care*

Students toured the hospital, using *Listening* skills while discovering the many career paths available - before designing a health mascot and presenting it.

What teachers say

“A well-organised day; the children were really engaged at all times. The tour was fantastic as students got to see all the different teams at work. I would definitely recommend it!”

*Teacher, Hillcroft Primary School (after trip to White Stuff)*
Get involved

We’re able to work with schools across the UK and beyond from our different bases.

We have a full range of partnership packages available according to the priorities of your school.

To set up a phone call or meeting, please don’t hesitate to email us at info@enablingenterprise.org.

Alternatively, find the right contact for your region at www.enablingenterprise.org/contact.