

Work experience placements required for Swindon and Wiltshire

1.0 Summary

Based on school census data for 2020/21 and FE College forecasts for 2021/22, an estimated 15,691 work experience placements will be required in Swindon and Wiltshire during the next academic year.

The FE College forecast includes a requirement for 765 315-hour placements (415 for Swindon and 350 for Wiltshire) for T Level/CDF Industry placement students.

	Swindon	Wiltshire	Total
Schools	2,750	7,644	10,394
FE Colleges	1,497	3,800	5,297
Total	3,998	11,295	15,691

1.1 Pre COVID-19 and current Gatsby Benchmark 6 performance. (See section 4.0.)

The data for Benchmark 6 performance (tables 3, 4 and 5) show the differences in achievement before and during COVID-19 and highlight the difference between the work experience placements required (tables 1 and 2) and the work experience placements undertaken by students. This data is taken from school and college self-evaluations using the Careers and Enterprise Company's online Compass tool.

The pre-COVID data from December 2019 shows that 54% of schools reported the overwhelming majority of students (76-100%) had a meaningful experience of a workplace by the end of year 11 and 74% of schools reported the overwhelming majority of students (76-100%) had obtained a meaningful experience of a workplace during years 12 and 13.

The latest Benchmark 6 performance data for March 21, shows that 43% (down 11 percentage points from December 2019) of schools reported the overwhelming majority of students (76-100%) had a meaningful experience of a workplace by the end of year 11 and 54% (down 20 percentage points from December 2019) of schools reported the overwhelming majority of students (76-100%) had obtained a meaningful experience of a workplace during years 12 and 13.

1.2 Shortfall in work experience placements. (See section 5.0.)

- 2021 – Year 10 – estimated shortfall affects 2,214 - 3,847 students (32%-55% of cohort).
- 2019 – Year 10 - estimated shortfall affects 1,517 - 3,029 students (24%-48% of cohort)
- 2021 – Year 12 - estimated shortfall affects 846 - 1557 students (29%-53% of cohort)
- 2019 – Year 12 - estimated shortfall affects 405 - 1,071 students (15%-39% of cohort)

While Benchmark 6 achievement fell in schools between 2019 and 2021, table 5 shows an uplift in performance by FE colleges in meeting requirements for work experience placements. Two of the three FE colleges in Swindon and Wiltshire are meeting Gatsby Benchmark 6 requirements for all or the overwhelming majority of students.

2.0 Breakdown of School and FE College data

Table 1: School placements required for the next academic year

	Swindon	Wiltshire	Total
Year 10 Students (Based on current Year 9s)	2,250	5,128	7,378
Year 12 Students (Based on current Year 12s)	500	2,516	3,016
Total	2,750	7,644	10,394

Source: Data gathered from school census data for January 2021

Table 2: FE College placements required for the next academic year

	Swindon	Wiltshire ¹	Total
Students	1497 ¹	3800 ²	5297

Source: Approximate data provided by FE Colleges - forecasts for academic year 2021/22

¹ Figure includes 415 T Level/CDF Industry placement students who need to complete 315-hour external placement with one or two employers.

² Figure includes 350 CDF Industry Placement students who need to complete 315-hour external placement with one or two employers.

3.0 Gatsby Benchmark 6 requirements

Schools:

- By the age of 16, every student should have had at least one experience of a workplace, additional to any part-time jobs they may have.
- By the age of 18, every student should have had one further such experience, additional to any part-time jobs they may have.

What good looks like: Every student should have first-hand experiences of the workplace through work visits, work shadowing and/or work experience to help their exploration of career opportunities and expand their networks.

Colleges:

- By the end of their study programme, every learner should have had at least one experience of a workplace, in addition to any part-time jobs they may have.

What good looks like: Every learner should have first-hand experiences of the workplace through work visits, work shadowing and/or work experience to help their exploration of career opportunities and expand their networks.

Progress against the Benchmark is measured by self-evaluation using the Careers and Enterprise Company's online Compass tool. The Compass tool allows users to select from the following classes when evaluating the proportion of students who have had a meaningful experience of a workplace: None; A few (1-25%); Some (26-50%); Most (51-75%); Overwhelming majority / all (76-100%).

4.0 Gatsby Benchmark 6 performance

The tables below summarise Gatsby Benchmark 6 performance in December 2019 (the last Compass return before the pandemic started) and March 2021 (the latest Compass return).

Table 3: Schools - Proportion of students that have had a meaningful experience of a workplace by the end of year 11

	Dec 2019		Mar 2021	
	No of Schools	% of Schools	No of Schools	% of Schools
None	0	0%	1	3%
A few (1-25%)	4	11%	6	16%
Some (26-50%)	6	16%	7	19%
Most (51-75%)	7	19%	7	19%
Overwhelming majority (76-100%)	20	54%	16	43%
Totals	37	100%	37	100%

Table 4: Schools - Proportion of students that have obtained a meaningful experience of a workplace during years 12 and 13

	Dec 2019		Mar 2021	
	No of Schools	% of Schools	No of Schools	% of Schools
None	0	0%	0	0%
A few (1-25%)	1	4%	3	13%
Some (26-50%)	2	9%	5	21%
Most (51-75%)	3	13%	3	13%
Overwhelming majority (76-100%)	17	74%	13	54%
Totals	23	100%	24	100%

Table 5: Colleges - Proportion of learners have had an experience of a workplace (additional to any part-time jobs they have) by the time they finish their study programme.

	Dec 2019		Mar 2021	
	No of Colleges	% of Colleges	No of Colleges	% of Colleges
None	0	0%	0	0%
A few (1-25%)	0	0%	1	33%
Some (26-50%)	1	33%	0	0%
Most (51-75%)	1	33%	0	0%
Overwhelming majority (76-100%)	1	33%	2	67%
Totals	3	100%	3	100%

5.0 Shortfall in work experience placements

For most schools, work experience traditionally takes place in Year 10 and in Year 12. Based on the Benchmark 6 performance data for March 2021 and the cohort sizes reported in the January 2021 school census, between 3,103 and 4,736 (45-68%) of Year 10 students will have had a meaningful experience of a workplace in the 2020/21 academic year. This suggests a shortfall representing between 2,214 and 3,847 students (32%-55%). For Year 12 students between 1,409 and 2,121 (47-71%) of students will have had a meaningful experience of a workplace in the 2020/21 academic year. This suggests a shortfall of between 846 and 1557 students (29%-53%).

Pre-COVID 19, the figures are better, as would be expected. Applying the Benchmark 6 performance data for December 2019 to the cohort sizes reported in the January 2021 school census, between 3,273 and 4,785 (52-76%) of Year 10 students were expected to have had a meaningful experience of a workplace in the 2019/20 academic year. This suggests a shortfall of between 1,517 and 3,029 students (24%-48%). For Year 12 students between 1,707 and 2,374 (61-85%) of students were expected to have had a meaningful experience of a workplace in the 2019/20 academic year. This suggests a shortfall of between 405 and 1,071 students (15%-39%).

While Benchmark 6 achievement fell in schools between 2019 and 2021, table 5 shows an uplift in performance by FE colleges in meeting requirements for work experience placements. Two of the three FE colleges in Swindon and Wiltshire are meeting Gatsby Benchmark 6 requirements for all or the overwhelming majority of students.