

# Applying Educational Opportunities

## The Toolkit

Hampshire County Council has developed a “toolkit” of opportunities to ensure children affected by building works on their school site can benefit from the experience. The toolkit of education opportunities represents a menu of activities to support learning that schools can tailor to their individual needs and can undertake either with the contractor or independently.

The toolkit includes a number of core activities. These activities are undertaken collaboratively between the project team, the client and the school and provide learning opportunities that focus on the site activity taking place. More importantly, the activities provide the pupils with an opportunity to increase their understanding of construction and the variety of careers within the industry.



## The Activities

The core activities are agreed between the contractor and the client and presented to the school. The school can pick and choose the number of activities they would like to undertake. The activities within the toolkit focus on:

- Health and safety.
- Career opportunities.
- Timelines and programmes.
- Design.
- Marketing the school engaging with the community.
- Using IT in construction (introduction to BIM).
- Applying maths within construction.
- Hands on practical experience.
- Site photos.



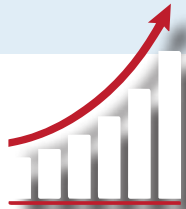
## The Benefits

- ✓ Great opportunity across all key stages and areas of the curriculum to enhance pupil learning.
- ✓ Approach increases collaboration between schools and site teams, helping to resolve any issues more efficiently. Undertaking this approach can act as an enabler to develop mutual understanding of the delivery, build trust and provide reassurance for all parties.
- ✓ Builds awareness among a young age group of how learning in the classroom is applied to real life situations.
- ✓ Installs curiosity and offers insight into the variety of careers, jobs and trades within the industry.
- ✓ Involving pupils will make them more likely to look after their new building(s).
- ✓ Increased community engagement – pupils talking to their families and friends will build awareness of the new buildings.
- ✓ Enables schools to forward plan lessons and provide a real life project to focus lessons around. Offers the contractor’s site and office based staff an opportunity to meaningfully engage with those who otherwise they would not get the opportunity to work with.
- ✓ Supports the Construction 2025 strategy to improve the image of construction and, in the long term, will help to fill the skills gap.



## The Programme Benefits

- ✓ A consistent holistic offer is provided to each school within the programme.
- ✓ Designers and contractors have greater cost certainty over the commitment they make towards educational activities.
- ✓ Time efficiency as activities are negotiated across the programme and can be delivered across a number of sites concurrently.
- ✓ The toolkit offers the programme/project staff the opportunity to inspire the next generation of construction workers, helping to encourage female and multi-ethnic involvement in the industry.



“ A school building project will not only enhance the educational provision for pupils at its completion but has the potential to be a learning opportunity from the onset of planning and throughout the build itself.

Children will acquire knowledge through the various processes and trades and, at the same time, will be able to apply this knowledge, deepen understanding and develop skills across the curriculum. ”

Val Preston - Head teacher, Alfred Sutton Primary School

## The Process

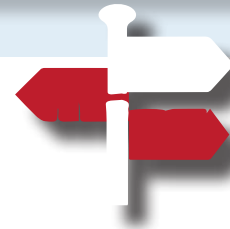
The contractor, client & design team agree the programme list of activities to be offered to the school. Agree key contacts from each organisation to provide support.

Promote the toolkit with the project teams, clarify roles and responsibilities.

Promote the toolkit with the schools – via either client meetings or end user group meetings.

Agree the activities from the programme list that the school would like to undertake; agree with whom, when and what resources/ support is required to enable the activities to take place. A template is available to support this activity.

Review progress at client meetings. Offer support from the key contacts or other schools that are also utilising the toolkit.



## The Challenges

- Agreeing and undertaking the activities takes commitment, and giving of their time, from all those involved.
- Schools decided on the level of involvement – there is a risk of schools not engaging at all.
- Some schools may want different options not included within the toolkit.



For more information about Educational Opportunities, please contact:

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