

‘IoD Essex fully supports this charter. We believe it is in the interest of employers to support the next generation of workers as they move from education into the demands of the working environment’.

Tim Price, Chair, IoD Essex.

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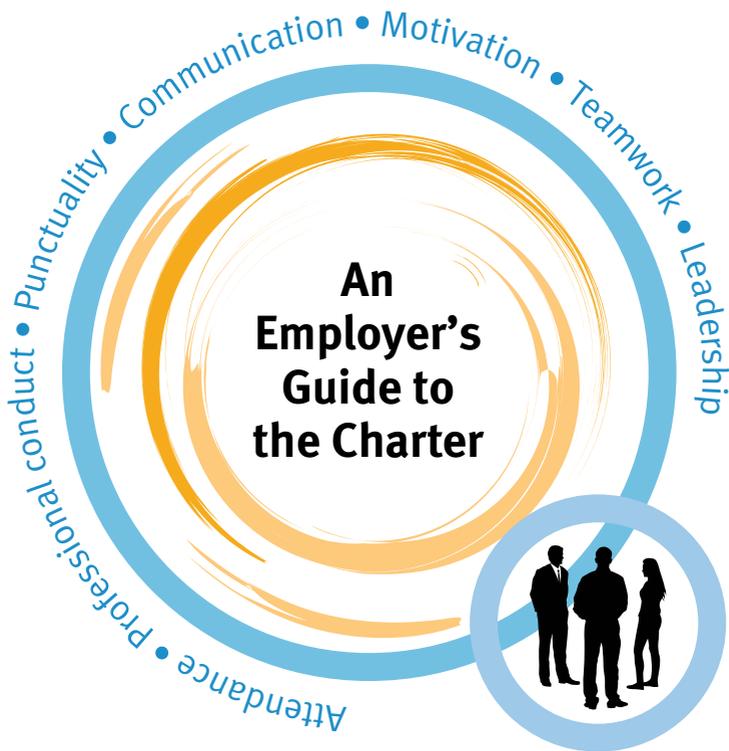
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Employability for Life



Message to Employers

The Employability for Life Charter and Charter Plus was established to engage businesses, schools and their students in raising the standards of employability in those leaving school for the benefit of both employers and school leavers.

The aim is for all school leavers to understand and achieve the levels of behaviour, aptitude and attitude that are required by employers when committing to investing in young people. The Charter standards include; commitment, professional conduct, motivation, attendance and punctuality, for Charter PLUS it also includes teamwork and leadership.

The Charter has been designed by businesses and defines those standards in a recognisable and repeatable manner. It therefore has real currency and is valued by employers and the agencies involved in finding work for young people.

The employers who have engaged with schools in the Charter have benefitted greatly in employment terms and continue to maintain their engagement through:

- Personal contribution
- Recruitment and retention
- Training
- Corporate Social Responsibility
- Innovation and growth.

The Charter is recognised by the LEP, local enterprise partnership which includes the Chamber of Commerce, Federation of Small Businesses and Institute of Directors.

How can you get involved?

Without obligation, the following list highlights the range of activities that employers could offer at any one time that will provide a focus for enriching the teaching and learning for young people by showing them the relevance of their studies to the world of work.

Activities in school could include:

- Classroom speakers
- Mock applications/interviews
- Becoming a mentor/e-mentor
- Providing business problem solving activities
- Contributing to Easter/Summer Schools
- Providing vocational ambassadors
- Providing enterprise advisers
- Supporting the school/college SMT on specific projects

Activities outside school:

- Hosting industry visits
- Contributing to careers events
- Providing job shadowing opportunities
- Providing case studies for students
- Providing work experience placements
- Providing placements for teachers

Other activities:

- Donating equipment or materials
- Financial support for sponsorship/competitions

How do students benefit?

The Career Support Guarantee that is being established in schools will help to prepare young people for life in the World of Work. This will be accomplished through a range of activities which includes working alongside local business and employers, to ensure they are equipped with the right skills and attributes to successfully enter the world of work. The Charter will help to raise aspirations and self esteem and support young people in attaining skills that employers need with their guidance.

‘From discussion with many businesses across Essex we appreciate the value of young people having basic employability skills. Working in partnership with employers we are delighted to be at the forefront of this exciting initiative and see the Charter really connecting the world of education and business for young people and the future of the economy for Essex’.

Cllr Kevin Bentley’s office, Essex County Council.

‘The Employability for Life Charter has had a very significant impact in our school over the last three years and in particular improved attendance. Not only has it had a profoundly motivating effect on pupils of all abilities but the Charter has also promoted skills such as persistence and showing initiative, which are so vital to success both in school and later in the world of work. We have noticed a real difference in terms of our pupils’ attitudes to their learning, their confidence and also their self-esteem. Indeed the pupils seem just as keen to get their EFL certificates in August on results day as they do their actual GCSE grades!’

Andy Hodgkinson, Head Teacher, The Sweyne Park School.