

ST ALBANS GIRLS' SCHOOL

	WORK EXPERIENCE POLICY		
	GB sub-committee: Curriculum, Assessment & Standards		
	Co-ordinator: Miss E McHugh		
	Last Reviewed: Spring 2021	Next Review: Spring 2023	

Signed by 
Margaret Chapman (Head Teacher)

Signed by 
Claire Barnard (Chair of Governors)

1.	RATIONALE	
	Work experience is seen as an integral part of the school curriculum to develop the skills and attitudes necessary for life-long learning	
2.	AIMS	
	<p>The main aims of work experience in St Albans Girls' School are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to improve the quality of learning in careers education and guidance by meeting the requirements of the Gatsby Benchmarks numbers 4, 5 and 6; • to make the school curriculum more meaningful and significant to students and thereby to raise their levels of achievement; • to improve speaking and listening skills; • to have an impact on the behaviour of students and their relationships with adults; • to enable students to develop their knowledge and understanding of the world of work; • to improve students' attitudes relevant to employability; • to enhance the level of maturity and personal and social skills of students; • to improve students' employability skills such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • communication • numeracy • information technology • problem solving and dealing with change 	
3.	PROCEDURES	
	3.1	Work Shadowing or Work Experience
		<p>All students participate in work shadowing activity days during Year 7. From Summer 2022, Year 10 students take part in a week of work experience coordinated by the Careers Lead and YC Hertfordshire. Year 12 Students participate in a week of work experience in the summer term. Year 12 work experience is called Professional Placement week and all placements are arranged by the students.</p> <p>During Key Stage 4 opportunities for extended work experience are provided when appropriate for those students who follow a personalised curriculum.</p> <p>Work experience reflects the school's equal opportunities policy which is committed to achieving equality of opportunity for all.</p>

	<p>For Year 10 Work Experience all placements are vetted and Health and Safety checks are made by YC Hertfordshire.</p> <p>For all other year groups, Health and safety policy and arrangement for vetting placements are formalised by an accredited member of STAGS staff. Students going on work experience are made aware of the health and safety laws designed to protect them and about their own responsibilities for health and safety.</p>
3.2	Extended Work Experience Placements
	<p>Extended work experience may form part of a personalised learning programme for individual students at Key Stage 4. Students may also undertake extended work experience during Years 12 and 13.</p>
3.3	Virtual Work Experience
	<p>When available, virtual opportunities to learn about the workplace and complete challenges and/or tasks set by an employer are also promoted to students in Years 10-13.</p> <p>These opportunities take place outside of school hours, usually lasting one day. The organisers of these opportunities have shared their safeguarding policies with the school. Current providers of virtual work experience that are encouraged by STAGS are through Springpod, NHS Trusts, and the Speakers for Schools Virtual Work Experience Hub.</p> <p>Any new providers of virtual work experience will be required to share their safeguarding policy and procedures prior to the school promoting them to ensure the safety of all students.</p>
4.	MONITORING
	<p>Students on an extended work experience placement are visited by a member of staff during their placement and regular feedback is sought from the employer. If unwell or unable to attend their placement the student must contact both the school and employer for each day of absence. Each day of the extended work experience the school will contact the employer to ensure that the student is attending the placement.</p> <p>During Year 10 Work Experience week, a member of staff will visit the student at their work placement. The member of staff will meet with the student and their supervisor to evaluate how the placement is going. If a student is going to be absent from their placement, they are required to contact both the school and employer for each day of their absence.</p> <p>If a student is absent from their Year 10 Work Experience week placement without notice, the employer is asked to inform the school by either telephone or email. The Careers Lead will then contact the parents/carers and employer to explain the reason for their absence. Throughout the week, the Attendance Administrator, Careers Lead and Work Experience Coordinator will also make spot-check calls to check the attendance of students at the workplace.</p> <p>Prior to starting their placement, all students are given a briefing on Health and Safety, including personal safety. They are advised on how to contact the school, and which member of staff to contact if they have a concern about their safety. The Careers Lead is able to provide a mobile phone number that the students can call in an emergency.</p> <p>Students attending Work Shadowing or limited Work Experience will be given written and oral feedback on their experience through the use of Work Experience Journal which is issued to all students prior to the start of their work experience or work shadowing activity.</p>