

Supported Internships

Understanding and promoting the offer to our young people



What is a Supported Internship (SI)?

- ▶ Supported Internships are intended to be a one-year programme
- ▶ They are recommended to be approx. 70% work-based and 30% education-based; this is flexible, based on individual
- ▶ They can provide SIs at any academic level
- ▶ Their success is measured in the young people achieving work at the end of the internships
- ▶ They may be provided in colleges or with training providers
- ▶ They may have accredited or non-accredited education components

Who can access a Supported Internship?

- ▶ They are for young people aged 16+ (but ideally 18+), **with an EHCP only**
- ▶ The young people must be realistically able to access employment at the end of the internship
- ▶ They can have any range of needs, but will need to be able to consistently attend their placement.
- ▶ They may have already achieved their Level 2 English/Maths or may still be working towards this
- ▶ They need to have an interest in working - their buy-in is vital!

How are they run?

- ▶ Unpaid work-based placement - may be already available or found based on young person's interest
- ▶ Education alongside work
 - social skills
 - life skills
 - academic skills
 - accredited or non-accredited training
- ▶ Funding from high needs funding and Access to Work
- ▶ Job coaches to support in the work placement
- ▶ Additional support both in work and education, including specialist equipment
- ▶ Offered at different levels and with different amounts of work-based and learning-based time, depending on student

What are the benefits?

- ▶ Increased **confidence and well-being** - being successful at tasks that are more aligned with their skill set, and knowing they are working towards being paid for their hard work
- ▶ Applying skills to **real life** - being in authentic environments to practice time management, organisation, resilience, communication
- ▶ Relevant to the **young person's interests**
- ▶ **Smaller environment** with greater flexibility - likely to have a small group of interns and colleagues, with more focused support
- ▶ Often **full-time** - gives a strong routine and sense of purpose
- ▶ Learning **social skills and behaviours for work** from those already successfully working - being in a more adult environment will encourage more adult behaviour

Preparing for an SI

- ▶ What are the young person's aspirations overall, not just for school? If they want a job or to live in their own home or travel to Japan, what do they need to get there?
- ▶ What skills do they already have and what would they need to develop? For example: organisation, independence, speaking up for themselves, building relationships, taking responsibility, working in a team
- ▶ Contributing to discussion in annual reviews - this is where the EHCP should be amended, shaped and personalised to the age, stage and aspirations of the young person, including exploring post-16 options from year 9 at the latest
- ▶ Attend education and training provider open days and events, use the Bexley Local Offer, go to workshops and webinars, look at the post-16 directory - whatever forums you find most useful to gather information

Timings and processes

- ▶ Usually best from age 18, but start looking from 14+ at potential options
- ▶ Young person should share with education setting if they would like to consider more work-based courses, so careers advisors can give some early guidance
- ▶ Preference forms are sent out from LA via education settings in September of years 11, 13/14 - for those already in FE, request a review in the Autumn term if likely to be the last year at college
- ▶ LA will make applications for Supported Internship programmes - young people may not know the exact provider, so LA can support with this
- ▶ SIs start at different points throughout the year, but typically will be a September start

Any questions?

Your first point of contact would be the **current education setting**, via either the SENCO or the careers' adviser.

Additional support can be found from:

Bexley Local Offer

[Bexley Supported Internships for young people aged 16-24 who have an Education, Health and Care Plan | Bexley Local Offer](#)

Bexley Post-16 directory

[The Bexley Post-16 Directory 2024 - 2025 is moving completely online this year and includes a course search and open day/evening dates | Bexley Local Offer](#)

Your setting's Case Officer - details all available at

[SEN Statutory Assessment Case Officers | Bexley Local Offer](#)