

CASE STUDY: McLaughlin & Harvey – Promoting construction careers to primary school pupils

McLaughlin & Harvey, whilst on site at Epping Forest Shopping Park, built a strong relationship with a local primary school. Through a close working relationship, a class of year 6 pupils were encouraged to consider the different career options available within the industry.

The Project team were eager to build an on-going relationship with the school. They felt that by doing so they could really influence the children rather than just a one-off visit. The team believed that this would create a bigger impact and leave more of a legacy.



After discussing with the Project Manager's wife, who is a Head Teacher, the team were advised to target children in their last few years of Primary School. This would encourage the children to think about what subjects they might need to perform best in at Secondary School should they want to consider a STEM career later in life.



To truly immerse the children in the project from start to completion, the team ensured the pupils were given involvement from stage one. Initially, the children visited the site at the foundation stages. They were given a child friendly induction and issued with their own PPE. After induction the children were given a supervised walk round on the site.

The class visited the site at a number of milestones through the build and were kept involved to see the machinery used and all the people involved.

The pupils were also issued with a workbook which had 9 pages. Each was titled with a different profession including:

- Architect
- Structural Engineer
- Quantity Surveyor
- Engineer
- Project Manager
- Safety Manager
- Ground Worker
- Frame Erector
- Bricklayer.



Every fortnight throughout the project, each of these members of the team would visit the school and talk to the children about their career. They were told about what grades they might need to get in certain subjects and what is involved in a typical day in their role.

This encouraged the children to think about all the different individuals involved in constructing a building and the many careers on offer. The children would fill in the pages of their workbook after each visit so they had a record of what each role involved.

Aileen Holland, Class Teacher said;

The opportunity to be involved with McLaughlin & Harvey was a wonderful experience for all the children. From the outset, it proved to be exciting and thoroughly enriching, exposing the children to so many aspects of the huge project near to our school. We all learned so much and the generous legacy of a Literacy Shed has proven to be a much loved and well used resource on our playground.

To complete the initiative and to allow the children to put what they had learnt into practice, the pupils were encouraged to share the knowledge they had learnt to help the team build a shed in the school playground. This shed was used as a literacy shed and is a place for the pupils to read in the playground.

