

founders4schools

Soft skills event

What is a Soft Skills Event?

Soft skills events help pupils learn a range of attributes to boost employability, develop enterprise opportunities and prepare young people for the world of work. In addition to this, students can gain an in-depth understanding of why integral skills such as resilience, conflict resolution and independence are important within the workplace. You can make this session industry-specific and use it as an opportunity to outline entry routes into different fields, or make it skill-specific and focus on techniques to help your pupils develop these attributes.

What is the impact of a Soft Skills Event?

Soft skills are integral to any workplace, professional environment or business setting. Whilst these skills are learned indirectly through daily interactions throughout a child's broad general education, there is an increasing focus on the significance and development of emotional intelligence, communication abilities, language skills, personal habits, cognitive or emotional empathy, and leadership traits. These soft skills are crucial in supporting a child's development towards their readiness to work.

The school environment is one of the few opportunities in a person's lifetime where they will be surrounded by others within the same age group, sharing many similar experiences and communicating within the same circles. The soft skills acquired in these formative years will be called upon increasingly as a child moves towards higher education or employment, but the stakes and expectations rise too. Findings show that "schools provide the safest environment to test some of these skills" (Ee and Change, 2015) and it is consequently not an opportunity which schools can afford to pass by, when considering how to best provide for their pupils.

Curriculum Links

Soft Skills Event: Curricular Mapping in relation to the 4 Capacities of A Curriculum for Excellence

Successful Learners	Effective Contributors	Responsible Citizens	Confident Individuals
A soft skills event will help a pupil to better access successful learning outcomes by allowing them to develop the emotional and social skills to fully engage with the opportunity.	Soft skills are crucial to working effectively in a group setting of any kind. A soft skills event focuses specifically on the communication, leadership, and emotional skills needed to help a young person become an effective contributor.	A soft skills event focuses on the role of individuals within group settings and the impact that we all have on each other in these settings. This process innately encourages responsible, and compassionate, citizenship.	A focus on soft skills encourages confidence in pupils as it shows that effective communication and leadership comes in many forms, dependent on the situation and the nature of the group. Thus giving everyone a chance to develop their confidence.

Building the Curriculum 4

“Learning in health and wellbeing ensures that children and young people develop the knowledge and understanding, skills, capabilities and attributes necessary for mental, emotional, social and physical wellbeing now and in the future.”

Career Event: Career Education Standard outcomes

“I Can” CES

Career Education Standard Entitlements

By the end of second level

- I can explain to others my ambitions/what I would like to do and look for ways to achieve them/that.
- I can recognise the skills I have and need for work.
- I can apply my skills to get more information about jobs/careers.

By the end of BGE

- I can extend and use my networks to find and apply for opportunities that match my interests, strengths and skills.
- I can understand and consistently demonstrate the behaviours an employer looks for in a good employee.

By the end of Senior Phase

- I can draw appropriately on evidence from my skills profile to help me complete application forms, create CVs and when practising interview techniques.
- I can consistently demonstrate the skills, attributes and behaviours needed to sustain and progress my career.