

Skills for Work: Year one experiences

Judith McClure — Head Teacher, St George's School for Girls

'We were delighted to welcome the Skills for Work initiative because the curriculum must offer flexibility and choice and it must be relevant. The purpose of education has got to be to prepare young people for the world, for adult life, for contributing to society, for finding a fulfilling career, so practical and vocational skills are essential. The whole point about the initiative is it's for everyone, we all have to learn these skills and certainly in our group we had a range of ability, a range of interests and they were all able to work well together and to learn together and to learn in their own way for their own particular future.

The great thing about this initiative is it gives young people the opportunity to bring together theory and practice because they're learning what the workplace means in the particular area and then they're actually experiencing it themselves. And at a time of engagement with a curriculum for excellence when we were all trying to see ways in which we can open up opportunities for our young people to become successful learners for the rest of their lives, I hope it's going to inform the rest of the curriculum, the kind of education we were offering.'