



LONDON BRIDGE BEST PRACTICE



School Engagement

Overview

Working in conjunction with the Southwark Education Business Alliance (EBA) project staff have committed their time to local school engagement. Six volunteers from the London Bridge Station Redevelopment have dedicated an hour a week to the nearby Snowsfield Primary School as 'reading partners,' helping students with reading and literacy skills.

Innovation

Southwark EBA ran an hour long training session during lunchtime at our offices. The training offered practical ways on how to support children with reading and maths and also provided important information on child protection issues. Southwark EBA also handled the Criminal Records Bureau checks which are required when working with young people.

- With Snowsfield Primary School being so close to the project site volunteers can **visit during their lunch hours** and build a good rapport with an individual child.
- **60 pairs of headphones** were donated to the school to use with ICT equipment
- Project staff also arranged a **site visit** for twenty four 11 year olds



Benefits for students

Reading partners can really help to improve a child's confidence and self-esteem.

- Students benefit from one-to-one support and attention
- Regular reading sessions boost literacy levels
- Contact with a business person can raise aspiration and commitment to learning

Benefits to employees

Becoming a reading partner is a chance to explore new situations and learn new skills.

- It's a chance to give back to the community
- It's rewarding to watch a child learn and grow in confidence
- It's a chance to have a break during the work day

Targets & Objectives

The chance to meet people from the **business world** can have a profound effect on students.

Meeting people from the world of work can open students' eyes to new possibilities - **providing role models** and the **enthusiasm** to succeed at school.

Site visits can give an enormous boost to a student's **motivation** and a powerful insight into the **skills and attitudes required by employers**.



Southwark is a borough of contrasts - from areas of wealth and business success (especially in the north of the borough) to some of the **most deprived** parts of the UK.

- Over 41% of students speak **English** as a **second or additional language**
- 7.5% of the population have **arrived in Southwark** from elsewhere in Britain in the **past 12 months**

Therefore school engagement, in particular volunteer 'reading partners,' can make a significant difference to children in Southwark.

The aim is to provide as much student support as possible over the course of the London Bridge Redevelopment Project.