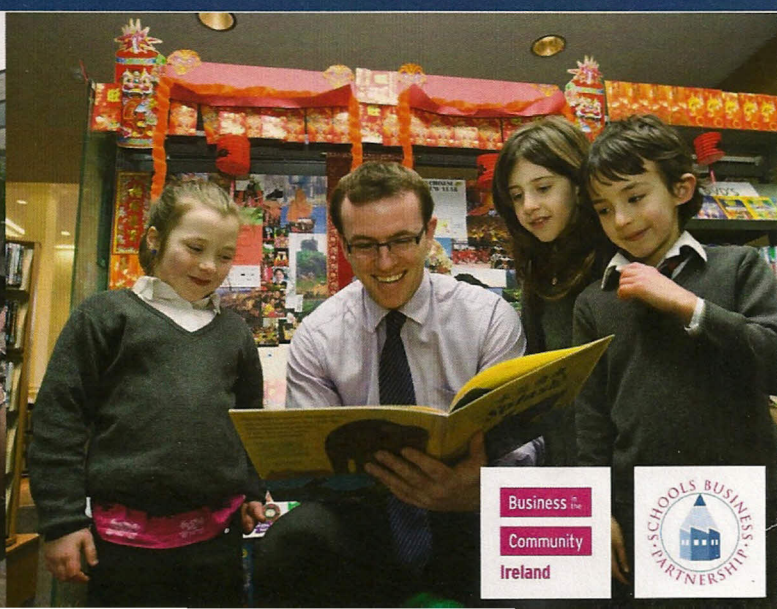




The Schools' Business Partnership



"It makes me proud to work for a company that participates in The Schools' Business Partnership" Mentor 2011

About Us

The Schools' Business Partnership (SBP) is a flagship educational inclusion programme of Business in the Community Ireland, the network for responsible business.

Our programme aims to positively impact on educational inclusion in Ireland by facilitating a partnership between one school and one large local business. We offer a portfolio of five programmes for post primary senior cycle students and we have a pilot reading enhancement programme at primary level. Our programmes include:

Post Primary School Programmes

- The Student Mentoring Programme
- The Skills @ Work Programme
- Management Excellence for Principals (MEP)
- Management Excellence for Teachers (MET)

Primary School Programmes

- Time to Read (Pilot)

Through our programmes we strive to support student retention by adding value to the Department of Children & Youth's 'School Completion Programme'. We encourage our students to broaden their horizons and to strive towards reaching their full potential.

Over the past decade, SBP have facilitated 223 partnerships between schools and business. Ireland's most progressive companies participate including leading technological, pharmaceutical, financial, services and manufacturing companies.


Our Programmes

The Student Mentoring Programme

Our Student Mentoring Programme strives to encourage students to stay in school, increase their self-esteem and develop an awareness of the workplace over the course of their senior cycle. The final two years of education are extremely important for many students. Our Student Mentoring



100%
of companies would
recommend Skills @ Work to
another company



90%
of teachers saw a positive
impact on students' attitude,
commitment and focus

Programme provides employees with the opportunity to be a positive influence in a young person's life by mentoring them. 1,071 students and 900 mentors have participated to date.

The Skills @ Work Programme

Our Skills @ Work Programme provides students with a unique insight into the world of work. Employees have the opportunity to share their experience of life, study and work with senior cycle students. Over five sessions, students are provided with assistance to learn about the partnering company and its business, to consider career and further study options available to them when they finish school. For employees, this is an opportunity to enhance and develop their presentation and communication skills while adding diversity to the working day.

Management Excellence for Principals (MEP)

Our Management Excellence for Principals Programme is a unique programme in the Irish education and business context. Our programme involves senior business leaders sharing their expertise and experience with educational leaders through a series of workshops over the course of the school year. Workshop topics include: Leadership, Time Management and Performance Management. Two thirds of Ireland's 730 post primary principals have participated to date.

Management Excellence for Teachers (MET)

Our Management Excellence for Teachers Programme aims to harvest the knowledge, skills and expertise of Ireland's visionary business leaders by facilitating them in providing professional development to whole school staffs. The programme creates the space for Ireland's top businesses to share company and staff skills through workshops with a school staff on topics that have been identified by that school staff. Topics to date have been numerous and varied e.g. teamwork, communication skills and strategic planning.

Time to Read

Our Time to Read Programme is a literacy enhancement initiative. It provides 1st and 2nd class children with the opportunity to receive reading support from a business volunteer. The programme aims to increase the enjoyment of, and confidence in reading whilst encouraging self-discovery for the participating children. Our programme was piloted in 2010/11 and the evaluation report by Dr. Eithne Kennedy of St. Patrick's College, Drumcondra will be published this autumn. We are hopeful that Time to Read, Ireland's first business to education reading initiative will roll out nationwide in 2012.



97%

of students found Skills @
Work very enjoyable or
enjoyable



96%

of students would
recommend Student
Mentoring to another student

Making an Impact

The Schools' Business Partnership has many impacts for the students, school communities, employees and companies that participate. Schools are at the heart of our communities so involving employees from local businesses with our young people makes common sense. The most astute business leaders and the best companies in Ireland clearly recognize this and over the best decade SBP has grown from a couple of schools and companies to a national initiative of almost 200 schools and 120 companies engaging in many programmes to the benefit of everyone involved. SBP is recognized as a model of international best practice and has been showcased by the EU Commission, OECD, France, Czech Republic and others. It is a successful Irish story which is being replicated this year in the Czech Republic. In 2011, our comprehensive programme evaluations indicated:

- **90%** of principals will adopt techniques learned at Management Excellence for Principals.
- **93%** of teachers who participated in Management Excellence for Teachers found the seminars very useful or useful.
- **85%** of employees said the main benefit of Skills @ Work was being able to make a difference in a young person's life.
- **63%** of students indicated that Skills @ Work had influenced their attitude in a positive way towards the Leaving Certificate.

Service & Support

Our expert team of 17 regional coordinators throughout the country provide knowledge, support, training and guidance to ensure each schools-business partnership is organic, effective and successful. Each school and company appoint a coordinator to oversee partnership activities on behalf of their school or company and can expect to commit approximately 15 hours per annum.

The Schools' Business Partnership is funded by the participating businesses, the Department of Education & Skills and the Department of Children & Youth Affairs. The business participating fee is €1,500 per annum which is tax deductible. The lead sponsor since 2000 is Marks & Spencer Ireland. Cornmarket Group Financial Services Ltd sponsor the Management Excellence for Principals Programme and Bord Gáis fund the Time to Read pilot programme. The most significant funding is in company time – valued at approximately €700,000 per annum.

For more information, visit www.bitc.ie or contact The Schools' Business Partnership on 01 874 3809 / sbp@bitc.ie to be directed to your regional coordinator.

A photograph of two young women with long dark hair, smiling and looking towards the camera. They are wearing dark clothing.

86%

of CEO's believe Corporate Responsibility can play a role in rebuilding Ireland's corporate reputation

A photograph of a group of young people, mostly boys, standing outdoors in a wooded area. They are wearing casual clothing like t-shirts and jeans. Some are looking at the camera, others are looking away.

84%

of companies said Skills @ Work contributed to their Corporate Responsibility Strategy