

Changing Lives Together With Education Providers

At the heart of change

Less than 6% of people with special educational needs and disabilities gain permanent paid employment in the UK.

DFN Project SEARCH believes that every young person has an equal right to aspire to the very best future, something that is often denied to people with a learning disability.

We are deeply committed to delivering transformative change that will bring equality of opportunity for all.

70% of those on our transition to employment programme secure paid work above the minimum wage, and on average an incredible 60% of those positions are full time roles.

You have given your young people an amazing education, now set them up for a fantastic life!

We are focused on creating transformative outcomes in employability training, and sharing best practices to ensure that together, we can achieve fair and lasting employment opportunities for young people with a learning disability and autism.



“ We spend 7 to 8 years preparing students whilst they are at St Martins to be confident in their abilities, to recognise the talents they have and to be prepared to make a positive contribution. They thrive surrounded by this expectation and positivity. We guide and shape our students to see themselves in the workplace. DFN Project SEARCH provides a real, tangible pathway for our students to directly realise this ambition. ”

Debbie Gerring, Headteacher
St. Martins School, Derby &
Education Partner at University
Hospitals of Derby & Burton
NHS Foundation Trust

Benefits to Education Leaders

- Opportunity to embed a transition to employment model into your core offer that is tried, tested and evidence based.
- Access to high quality CPD training, both online and in person to support you to deliver the model effectively.
- Full access to a best practice International Employability Curriculum.
- Full access to dedicated portal of teaching and learning resources.
- Full access to world's largest vocational profiling tool for people with SEND which allows you to track and measure progress against learner skill acquisition.
- Robust and clearly evidenced data demonstrating in year Intent, Implementation and Impact relating to learner progress and aspirational destinations.
- Creative and innovative opportunities to track progress against EHCP targets. **DFN Project SEARCH** and Education Providers
- A seamless approach to transition that develops preparation for adulthood skills.
- Support to connect and maintain relationships with businesses in your area.
- Support to grow and develop an eco-system for the young people and their families, ensuring they can receive support throughout their careers from adult supported employment services.

“ You become part of a national and international movement for social change. ”





I would be at home if DFN Project SEARCH didn't exist. It has changed my life. I feel happy now. I have learnt new skills like teamwork.



I was nervous but now I am confident, I have new friends, learnt new skills. I am happy here and enjoy coming every day.



DFN Project SEARCH has helped me by giving me more than one door in getting a job, I have gained more skills, I have learnt more about myself and what I can do.



It has been a positive experience, it has taught me a lot about myself, I can now multi task which I couldn't do before. I couldn't get this far without DFN Project SEARCH.



DFN Project SEARCH has built my confidence and I have learnt many new skills, it has made me a different person to when I was at school. I am now more confident to work with other people.

The programme has help me improve in confidence and communication.



Externally Validated



“ [DFN] Project SEARCH has been a big life change giving me a step up to employment. I was quiet, shy, close minded and in a dark place and I was desperate, calling for help as my hopes were coming to an end of despair. One step into [DFN] Project SEARCH revealed a new positive, open minded, proactive, confident, time keeping Tegan Mulby on the go! I am ready for the possibilities and achievements that an exceptional employee takes me... If I wasn't introduced to [DFN] Project SEARCH then I would of gone in a different direction. ”

Tegan Mulby, a graduate, is now an Administration Support at Positive Footprints and a member of the Youth Advisory Group

An Ofsted Inspection Report of 2020 said that:

“ [DFN] Project SEARCH is an example of how the partnership is helping young people with SEND gain valuable academic and employability skills. ”

“ The purpose of education is to prepare students for life, it's that simple! ”

Sir Ken Robinson

To find out more or to partner with DFN Project SEARCH, please get in touch.

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 dfnprojectsearch.org

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