

Meaningful Learning Experiences

Strategic Commitment	✓	Part of a Derby Opportunity Area careers initiative
Curriculum Provision	✓	Cross-curricular 'Codebreakers' theme
Employer Partnerships	✓	Involving local IT services specialist
Reflective Young People	✓	Evaluated as part of the 'Our Future Derby' programme
Informed Career Choices	✓	Challenging gender stereotypes in the IT sector

Local IT services firm helps year 3 prepare e-safety and coding presentation for parents

Cherry Tree Hill Primary School in Derby had planned a scheme of work for year 3 children titled 'Codebreakers'. It covering learning objectives in Computing (Coding and programming), D&T (Design a game and create all information guides, packaging and advertising for it), Science (Electricity - make a circuit), Geography (Grid References and compass points), PE (OAA and orienteering- team building), History (changes in use of technology).

In describing their wish to bring this topic to life, the school stated that, 'We would love to ensure that our children have fun and realise how vital technology and the things we teach them at school are for the world of work. We would love to inspire them to think about coding as a future career.' The school also recognises that, 'Children have a limited knowledge of jobs and work ... It would be good to challenge gender stereotypes as the field in computing/electrics/engineering can be perceived as a male job.'

Established in Derby in 1997, RDS Global provide tailored IT solutions and supports 4,000 users in 200 locations across the UK, serving customers in various sectors, including automotive retail, builders' merchants, care homes, hotel and hospitality and professional services.

Working with the company's Learning and Development Manager, the school planned a classroom introduction to RDS Global and set the challenge to prepare a presentation for parents about coding and e-safety. RDS contributed to a carousel activity for the year group with a masterclass in coding, using virtual reality headsets, a 'Spheroball' and the school's own iPad equipment.

Benefits for the Students

- *'[RDS Global] come and fix computers if they get broken.'*
- *'I thought it was really cool'. (About the classroom virtual presentation)*
- *'We're going to have to teach the parents about e-safety ... I feel nervous because I don't want to mess anything up.'*
- *'We had an assembly where there was loads of information on the board and she told us about how important things were.'*
- *'I'm excited, but then I'm a bit scared because you have to arrange it and what if you forget something ... Maybe you could write it down.'*

Benefits for the School

'As a year group, we have decided this is the area we would need more support with, as we were struggling with some ideas.'

- *'... loved the idea of using the VR technology to help children learning about your organisation and the different roles making use of innovative technology in the process.'*
- *'Thank you for the E-Safety Information. The children got loads from it and it was interesting to have the opportunity to see who does what on their devices at home.'*

Benefits for the Employer

RDS Global already works with schools in the area to promote career opportunities, including explaining their commitment to offer apprenticeships. The packaged classroom resources, which can be re-used, include the virtual message, *'I'm really looking forward to meeting you all and discussing things like coding, different uses for coding and robots, where we use them in our business, virtual reality and how that's changing the way we communicate with each other, but also how we use these things safely. So, e-safety is massive for us as a business, but also for you as the user.'*



A virtual visit from local IT specialist RDS introduced children to the company and launched a challenge to prepare a presentation for parents about coding and e-safety. RDS also supported a workshop in school to provide expert guidance before they delivered their presentation.

