



BRIEFING

Essential Skills Campaign

What is the issue?

Essential skills are critical to every individual and every business. They are enabling skills. They include communication, problem solving, creativity, resilience, aiming high, leadership and teamwork. Individuals need them for learning, in work and life. They are vital to social mobility and job mobility, so that everyone, regardless of background, can succeed and thrive.

All individuals should be aware of the importance of essential skills. They should have the opportunity to develop them, be able to articulate their own essential skills, and know when they have used them in practice. Yet, as was shown in our recent YouGov survey, employees do not feel that they are getting this support from their employer or indeed whilst in education.

There is a huge opportunity for business to work collectively to ensure that essential skills are taken seriously from the classroom to the boardroom. In the rapidly changing world of work, and increasingly challenging political and economic climate, it has never been more important than now.

Key statistics

Business in the Community commissioned a YouGov survey of 2003 people that took place between 19 and 26 September. The polling demonstrates that whilst employees feel that essential skills are important they are not always supported to develop or recognise them to be important in education or the workplace.

- 97 percent of UK employees feel there are benefits of having essential skills at work
- Of these, 67 percent believe that employees with essential skills have a better relationship with people they work with and that essential skills made them more productive at work
- However, there is a missed opportunity as only 33 percent were asked to demonstrate how they use essential skills at work in their last appraisal. In their last interview only, 43 percent were asked to demonstrate essential skills
- 85 percent of UK employees think essential skills are important for work and life but only 23 percent feel they were supported to develop these skills at school

Why Business in the Community?

Business in the Community has a unique position to lead action across the life course, from education to employment, at every stage of an individual's career journey. This means making interventions from the classroom to the boardroom and developing a shared language on skills that builds a bridge between the worlds of education and employment.

Importantly, we believe that business can have the greatest impact when working collectively. Our ambition is to harness the power of businesses and work collaboratively to cut through the current noise on skills.





The Prince's
Responsible
Business Network

By doing this we will transform the way people in the UK are supported to identify, develop and articulate essential skills at every stage of their lives.

Interested in hearing more?

We are calling on businesses to join the conversation and help us make essential skills essential for all individuals.

To be part of the essential skills conversation email katy.neep@bitc.org.uk

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