



Accelerator Prospectus 2025-26

Join a movement of educators building essential skills



*Supporting the Skills
Builder Award*



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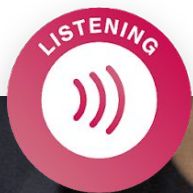




The **essential skills** your students need to succeed.

It's never been more important to invest in learners' essential skills like teamwork and problem solving, alongside their academic pursuits. **For many of us, it's why we got into teaching.**

Skills Builder Accelerator is our flagship programme for primaries, secondary schools, specialist settings and colleges. Together, we'll develop a complete approach for building learners' essential skills.



The Partnership

Skills Builder Partnership includes primaries, secondaries, specialist settings, colleges, multi-academy trusts, charities and a wide range of employers.

There are just 200 fully-funded places on Accelerator 2025-26, available to state-maintained UK schools and colleges, and some independent specialist schools.



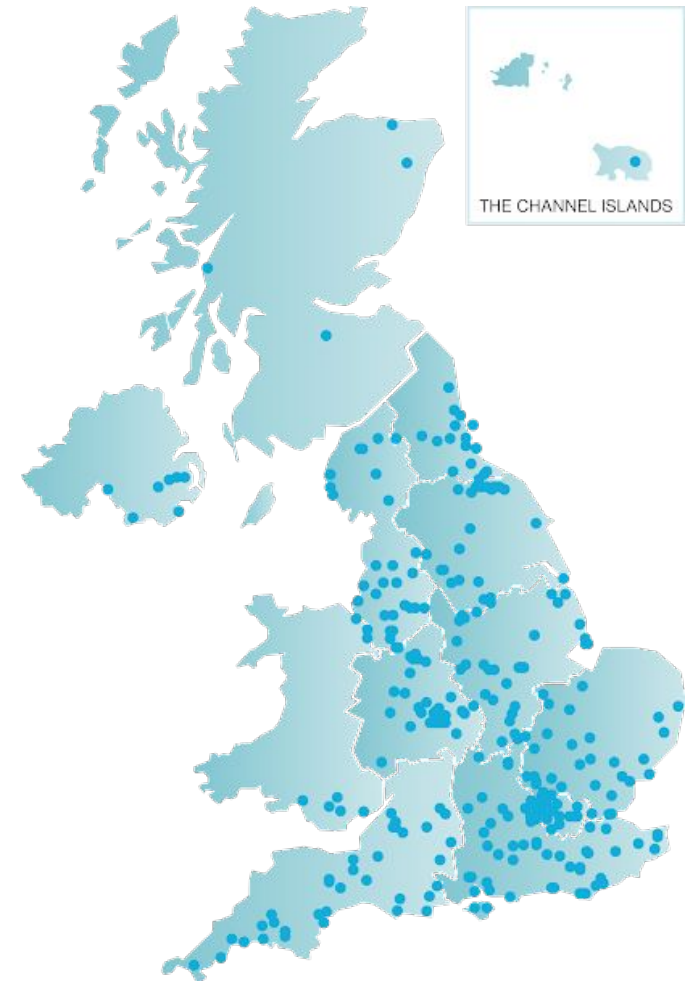
500+

schools, colleges
& universities



200+

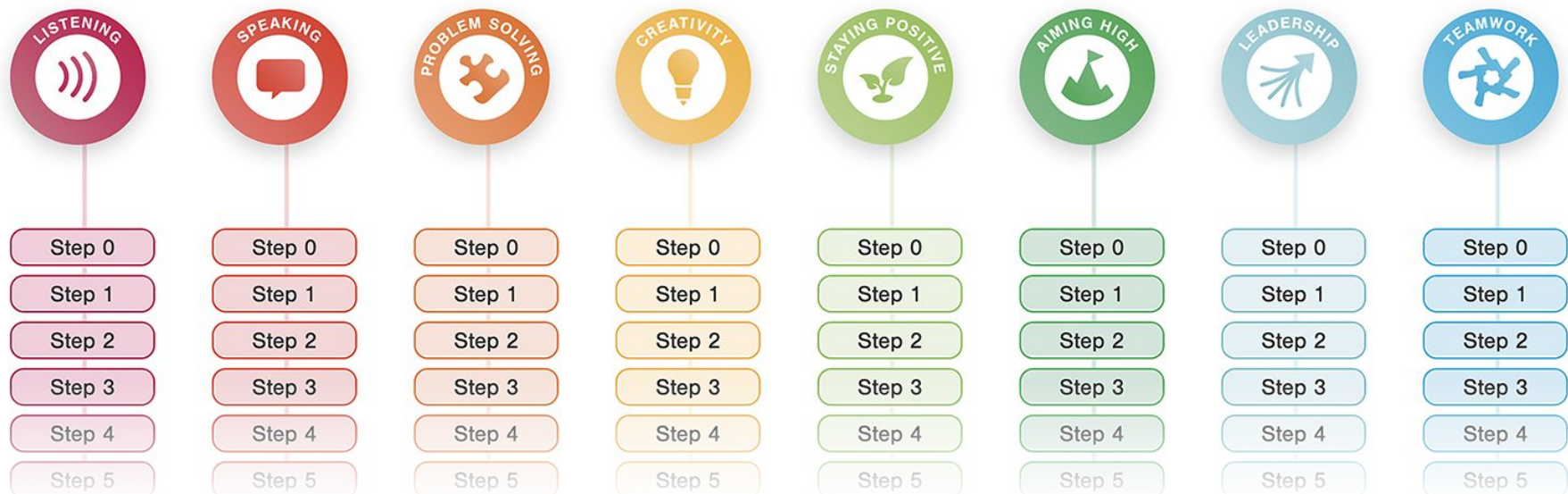
organisations
& employers.



The Framework

If we want to build learners' essential skills, we need to be consistent, explicit and specific. The Skills Builder [Universal Framework](#) is the national standard for teaching essential, transferable skills like teamwork and problem solving. It breaks down eight essential skills into 16 teachable steps. For every step of every skill there's a suite of teaching and learning resources.

This means that teachers can focus in on the specific skill step that learners need to learn next, supporting progress at all ages and for all abilities – including those with special educational needs.





The Award

The Skills Builder Award recognises high-quality essential skills education. [Six best practice principles](#) have been refined with more than 1,000 schools and colleges over the last decade. These six principles will form the basis of your teaching and your success in achieving them will be recognised with the Skills Builder Award.

You can explore over 200 case studies from across the UK [here](#)



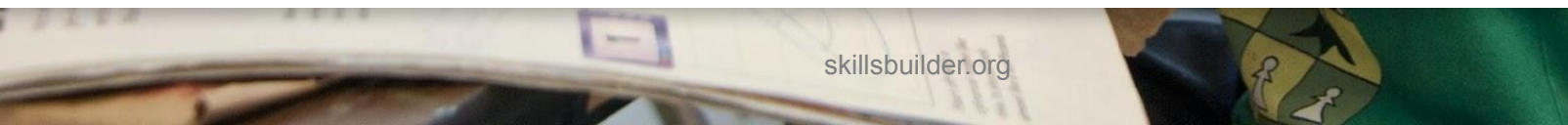
Skills Builder
Bronze Award



Skills Builder
Silver Award



















Skills Builder
Gold Award



The programme timeline

The Accelerator programme combines training and planning with a dedicated Education Associate at Skills Builder, who is a qualified teacher. These are complemented by teaching and learning materials and peer learning opportunities:

	TERM 1	TERM 2	TERM 3
<p>Touchpoints with Skills Builder</p> <p> Skills Leader Training Days</p> <p> Planning Meetings</p> <p> Teacher Training Sessions</p> <p>Online all-through support</p> <p> Premium Resources</p> <p> Online Tools & Resources</p> <p> Peer Learning & Events</p>	  	  	
			
			
			

** Apply in the Spring term and be invited to get started early in Summer.*

The programme details



Skills Leader Training Days x 2

Who attends? The Skills Leader (the lead practitioner at your school or college)

What? Two days to learn with fellow Skills Leaders, understand the Skills Builder approach and how to implement it

How? Virtual video meets, 9am-2.30pm, dates to choose from



Premium Resources (costs attached)

What? Choose to unlock online resources for up to 17 Challenge Days, 24 extended projects, 4 Virtual Work Experience Modules

How? Optional, with costs from £100 to £2,000



Planning Meetings x 3

Who attends? The Skills Leader and a member of SLT

What? Three meetings with your dedicated Skills Builder contact to plan and refine your teaching and learning approach for essential skills across your school or college

How? Video call, 1 hour, booked by you



Online tools

What? Four online teaching and learning tools: Skills Builder Hub (teaching resources and assessment); Skills Builder Benchmark (learner self-assessment); Skills Builder Launchpad (self-led learning); Homezone (for parent & carers)

How? Freely included in your programme



Teacher Training Sessions x 2

Who attends? The team of teaching and support staff involved

What? Train the trainer approach to ensuring all your teachers are able to deliver the Skills Builder approach to essential skills for all your learners

How? Virtual video meets, 1-2 hours, booked by you



Peer-learning & Events

Who attends? There are virtual and in-person events for the Skills Leader to support peer-learning, as well as Insight Sessions for learners to support their Skills Builder learning

How? We will invite you to sign up once you're on a programme

What this might look like in...

Primary

- Whole-school impact with termly focus skill
- Demonstrable, year-on-year progress
- Bi-weekly skills slots and assemblies

[Click to apply](#)

Secondary

- Employability and careers in the curriculum
- Ready-to-use resources for tutors
- Online student self-assessment tool

[Click to apply](#)

Specialist settings

- Set individualised targets
- Project-based-learning resources
- Reward and celebrate individual progress

[Click to apply](#)

College and FE

- Online learner self-assessment tool
- Targets for personal development meetings
- Embedding skills into courses

[Click to apply](#)



Read case
study here



or [click here](#)

Primary success story

William Tyndale Primary School

Sophie Gavalda is Head Teacher at William Tyndale. She has been working with Skills Builder since 2013. Their approach is **deeply integrated and long-term**. They have structured a whole-school learning programme which involves the wider community. This way, all pupils - from Nursery to Year 6 - develop essential skills explicitly and make progress year on year.

“The impact on the children was immediate, with high levels of engagement and a clear link with developing communication and confidence...”

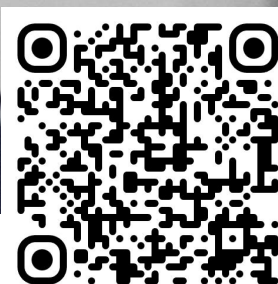
Sophie Gavalda
Head Teacher, William
Tyndale Primary



Skills Builder
Gold Award



Read case study here



or [click here](#)

Secondary success story

The Oaks Academy

Essential skills are aligned to the school's **existing Personal Development Programme** with Years 7-10. There are regular **teaching opportunities during form time** and also Career Champions across all curriculum areas focusing on employability skills. The skills are embedded into the school's reward system and referenced in assemblies, extra curricular activities, enterprise days and careers events throughout the year.

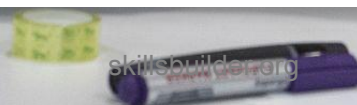
“ Skills Builder has provided a universal language for staff and pupils when discussing essential skills for life. The skills are used to complement our existing Personal Development programme...”

Form tutors use the resources and have reported improvement in the use of the skills and increased confidence from pupils using them throughout the year. “

Emily Abberley
Assistant Head Teacher,
The Oaks Academy



Skills Builder
Brouze Award





Read case
study here



or [click here](#)

SEND success story

Nancealverne School

Essential skills are **threaded through the taught curriculum** from Early Years to Post 16. There is allocated time on the timetable to develop essential skills, including project based learning and off timetable challenge days. Skills and steps are **linked to existing planning, assessment and feedback systems**. Learners practice their essential skills **as a matter of course throughout their day**.

“The impact of the Accelerator Programme has been vast...

Skills Builder is the perfect resource for us as a Special School as the Universal Framework links well to our principles and values.

Teachers and students really engage and respond to Skills Builder.”

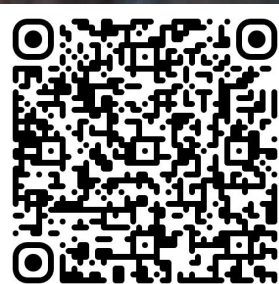
Jodie Phillips,
Assistant Headteacher,
Nancealverne School



Skills Builder
Gold Award



Read case
study here



or [click here](#)

College success story

St Francis Xavier Sixth Form College

Students are given the opportunity to **reflect on their essential skills** via the **online self-assessment tool, Skills Builder Benchmark**. Students track progress and discuss areas for development in conversation with their tutors or lecturers, and skill targets are set. Essential skills are **championed through curriculum areas**, project based learning, work experience and special employer events.

“Adopting the Universal Framework has given teachers and students a simple language to make the teaching of these essential skills explicit...”

These are the skills that will help our students with social mobility and benefit their futures.”

Thomas Worms,
Director of Personal
Development, St Francis
Xavier Sixth Form
College



Skills Builder
Silver Award

Becoming a Skills Leader

Lead a transformative programme

As the Skills Leader, you will be the driving force behind your programme. You will join a network of 200 fellow Skills Leaders. A dedicated colleague at Skills Builder will work with you and your Senior Leaders to deliver a transformational programme in your school or college.

Showcase your achievements

At the end of the year, you will reflect on your progress and if you reach the standards, achieve a Skills Builder Award. You can read case studies written by previous Skills Leaders [here](#).





Frequently asked questions

How do I apply?

You need to visit skillsbuilder.org/uk-accelerator and apply online. Applications will be reviewed and funding confirmed after each round deadline.

Am I eligible for a fully funded place?

Every year, we fundraise over £500,000 to make 200 places available at no cost to state-maintained UK schools and colleges, and some independent special schools. You can check your eligibility [here](#).

How many places are there?

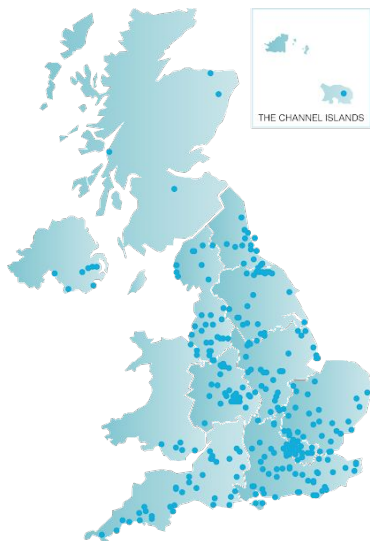
There are only 200 fully-funded places available annually, awarded to committed schools and colleges who submit strong applications.

When should I apply?

As soon as you can, after discussing with your SLT. Early applications are encouraged as we anticipate that programme places and associated funding will be oversubscribed. Those that apply in the Spring term will be invited to get started early in Summer.

Who should be the Skills Leader?

We recommend someone with leadership capacity. You will need to attend 2 virtual training days and 3 meetings across the year, as well as organising professional development opportunities for colleagues.



How to apply

Register your interest [here](#)

Stay informed with the latest updates on funded places*

Sign up to an information event [here](#)

Meet the team, preview resources and ask any questions.

Send us an email

Still unsure? Email us at accelerator@skillsbuilder.org

Early bird deadline

**Friday 14 February
2025**

Round 1 deadline

**Friday 4 April
2025**

Round 2 deadline

**Friday 23 May
2025**

Round 3 deadline

**Friday 4 July
2025**

Apply in the Spring term and be invited to get started early in Summer.

Apply online at
skillsbuilder.org/uk-accelerator

**Only 200 fully-funded places available to UK state-maintained schools and colleges in 2025-26.*

skillsbuilder.org