When to use Future Skills Questionnaire

There are five versions of the Future Skills Questionnaire, each tailored to key transition points throughout secondary education and includes a version for learners with SEND.

We suggest asking learners to complete the questionnaire at each of these transition points, allowing you to evaluate and plan your careers programme informed by your learners responses.

The key transition points are:

Starting Secondary (Year7): to find out learners' baseline level of knowledge and views at the start of secondary school. This aggregated information can then be used to design a responsive and progressive careers programme.

Transition to KS3 (Years 8 and 9): to encourage learners to think about their strengths and preferences, to make the connection between their GCSE subjects and careers, and to highlight needs for further information, advice and guidance.

GCSE Years (Years 10 and 11): to identify those with and without a plan or career ideas as learners prepare for Post-16 transitions, to identify whether learners know where to find IAG, and their understanding of selection/recruitment/interview processes.

Post-16 Study (Years 12 and 13): to support learners make important Post-18 transition choices.

Learners with SEND

A SEND version of the FSQ (same across all year groups) has been designed for those who may struggle to complete the longer versions of the questionnaire. The SEND version has been designed to be part of a one-to-one careers conversation. The purpose of the questionnaire should be clearly explained to the learner, and they should be supported to understand and answer each question. For resources to support delivering FSQ to learners with SEND, please visit the Help Centre > FSQ for learners with SEND

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The Future Skills Questionnaire (FSQ) is a tool to measure learners' career-readiness.

FSQ covers key aspects of knowledge, skills and attitudes that are important for successful transitions.

Simple data insight then supports you to make targeted interventions, evaluate your careers programme and identify the impact of careers education in your setting.

Learner engagement

FSQ can be used in a classroom setting. A supervising member of staff can provide information on the questionnaire before it is completed and offer support or guidance during completion if needed.

The questionnaire should take approximately 15-20 minutes to complete. Learners should complete the questionnaire as independently as possible, and will need access to a device with internet, for example a laptop, tablet or mobile phone.

FSQ Engagement resources

Why use the Future Skills Questionnaire…

- Capture learner voice
- Identify gaps in your careers provision
- Tailor careers activities to individual needs
- Measure the progress of your careers programme over time.

Next steps

Now: If you are new to FSQ, consider engaging learners from Year 11/13 at risk of not making positive transitions to identify barriers and areas for support.

Thinking Ahead: Add completion of the FSQ to your careers calendar. Use the results to identify strengths and development areas within your careers programme, adjust your careers activities to amplify or tackle these.
By embedding FSQ from Year 7, you can establish a baseline from which you can monitor learner progress in careers readiness/skills development as they move through your setting.

The Future Skills Questionnaire is accessed via Compass+. FSQ responses can be viewed alongside careers activities data. There is a comprehensive range of resources available to support you to embed FSQ in your setting. This covers engaging learners and sharing targeted communication with parents/carers.

If you get stuck… The Help Centre contains lots help articles with short how-to videos for FSQ including how to generate links and encourage maximum responses. There are also direct links to training opportunities including webinars and self-serve FSQ training modules.