



Guide for educators

 **BARCLAYS** | LifeSkills

Enter

About LifeSkills

Here at [Barclays LifeSkills](#), we have one single-minded ambition – to help young people build vital employability and financial skills to enable them to thrive in a rapidly changing work environment when they leave education.

Launched in 2013, LifeSkills is designed for all ages from young people aged 7 years old all the way through to Higher and Further education, as well as families and adults.

Barclays LifeSkills provides free interactive tools and resources, to enable educators to deliver lessons to young people throughout their education to inspire them about the world of work and develop their employability and money skills. At the centre of LifeSkills are the core transferable skills such as problem solving and communication, which can transfer across to any job or industry.

Source: 2023 Annual Evaluation, Chrysalis

Educators can select from 150+ hours of curriculum-linked employability and financial capability skills [resources](#) designed to flexibly fit into busy timetables. Lesson plans are split up by timings and can be extended with additional activities.

There is also a [suite of lessons](#) adapted for young people with additional learning needs and disabilities (SEND/ALN) and lesson plans specially designed to meet the needs of care leavers.

“Staff appreciate the detail in the lesson plans and how easy the resources are to use. Lesson plans are very adaptable to longer (1 hour) PHSCE lessons or shorter (15-30 minute) tutor sessions.”

Careers leader, secondary school, England (North East)



90%+

We are used in over 90% of schools in the UK

Educators

91%

of educators rate LifeSkills resources very highly

85%

of teachers saw an improvement in their knowledge and expertise in teaching employability, careers and/or money management skills

Students

91%

have improved their awareness of their own strengths and skills

87%

feel more motivated

82%

have higher aspirations and feel more positive about the future

Why is upskilling whilst in education so important?

Empowering individuals to develop their aspirations and core employability skills is not only essential for their personal advancement, but also for the growth of our economy and businesses. This is coupled with the pace of change in the working world; automation, AI and ambitions for net-zero which accelerate the growing need to equip everyone with a set of core transferable skills, as today's young people need to be able to adapt more than any other generation.

LifeSkills focuses on the core transferable skills young people need and the practical steps to gain employment now and for the jobs of tomorrow.

Our goal is to support educators to better understand these changes and how they might prepare young people through our lesson plans, tools and CPD resources.



Analytical thinking (problem solving), creative thinking (creativity), resilience, motivation (pro-activity) and leadership are considered to be part of the core skills companies need from their employees¹.

12.3% of young people are not in education, employment or training (NEET), up 1.8% from 2021².

¹[Future of Jobs Report, 2023, World Economic Forum](#)

²[NEET age 16 to 24, 2022, Explore education statistics, GOV.UK](#)



What can Barclays LifeSkills offer you?

LifeSkills resources include lesson plans, teaching guides, interactive tools and films. These support educators to help young people develop their aspirations (a key driver in developing employability prospects), identify personal strengths, develop the confidence to write a CV and even shine in an interview.

Whether utilised to compliment your school wide strategic programme delivery or support individual planning, the programme is designed to be used in a way that suits you best. This could be a whole school, specific cohort or a class approach to create learning opportunities at all levels.

LifeSkills also partners with charities to deliver facilitated sessions into schools and colleges that meet specific socio-economic deprivation and location criteria. You can find more information on this on our website on our [Workshops page](#).

Virtual Work Experience

For educators facing time pressures in securing traditional placements, young people can get a taste of working life without leaving the classroom with the [Virtual Work Experience tool](#).

They will take a virtual journey into the world of work to gain an understanding of how a business works, helping them with the real-world application of core transferable skills like communication, resilience and proactivity.

"Feedback from staff [using LifeSkills money resources during tutor time] was really positive. They really liked the activities, they found them straight forward, they felt that there was a flow to the lessons, and they felt that they could just pick them up and teach them."

Head of PSHE, secondary school, England



Interactive tools and films

Our interactive tools and films can help young people explore different topics in more depth. For example:

- Discover jobs based on their skills and interests using the [Wheel of Strengths](#) (7-18) with accompanying lessons for different age groups available.
- Use the [CV Builder](#) (11-18) to create a CV that goes to the top of the pile when applying for jobs.
- Students can practise interview techniques using the [Virtual Interview Practice tool](#) (11-18).
- Explore more about green jobs and the green skills needed to succeed with our short animations.

Lessons

Through our [lesson hub](#), you can make use of a variety of organised curriculum-linked lessons using some of the interactive tools and films, consisting of simple plans with supporting presentation slides that can be adapted to suit most learning environments.

Help students get the most from working life by introducing them to the key personal skills employers look for with the [Recognising and building personal skills lesson](#) (11-16).

Understand how budgeting and saving regularly can help with effective money management with the [Managing money and budgeting lesson](#) (16-19).

Support

Discover how LifeSkills can help upskill you with the latest employability and financial capability updates with our [Educator CPD and support hub](#).

Here you will find research on trends in the world of work and future employability insights. Hear from experts and collaborators as they navigate the careers and education landscape to examine topics from core transferable skills to support on making the most of LifeSkills.

You will also find articles and blogs to help you support your students as they continue to work towards their future and improve their employability and financial capability skills.

"Using the materials provided has saved a huge amount of time in preparation for employability skills."

Careers leader, FE college, England (South West)

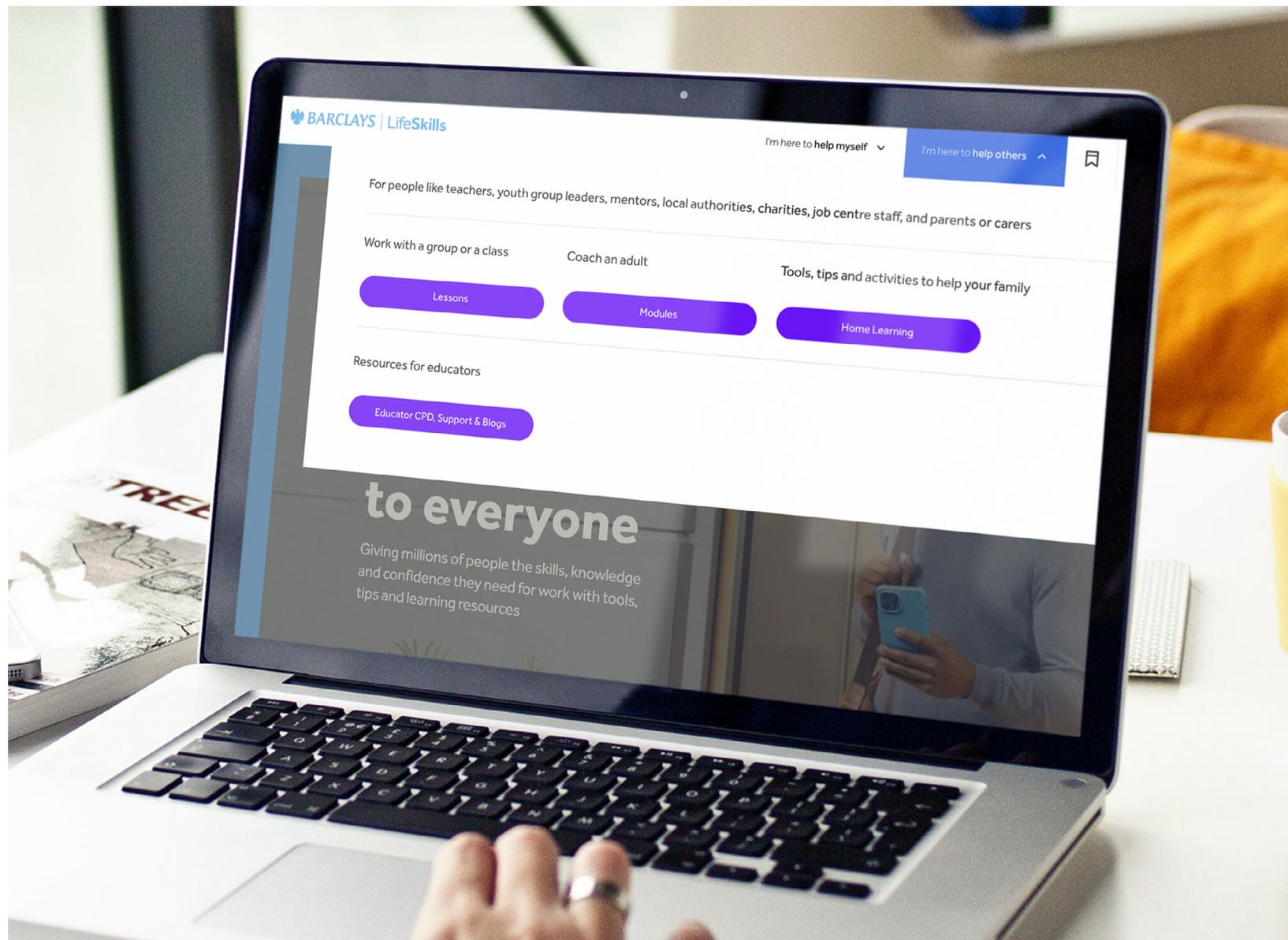
Navigating LifeSkills

Lesson plans can be accessed via the LifeSkills homepage, by selecting the 'Help others' button or visiting the ['Help others' hub](#).

You then have the option to browse all lessons, filter by category, or view content tagged by a particular theme.

Filtering by category provides a logical journey through the content and can be further refined by specifying age range and suitability for young people with SEND or for care leavers. There is also the option for young people to find tools, films and activities in the ['Help myself' hub](#).

Our customisable educator dashboard provides a snapshot of the most useful resources for you, based on the themes that you select are most relevant to you and your students.



Not sure where to start on your LifeSkills journey?

Search 'Barclays LifeSkills' online and [create a free account](#) on the LifeSkills homepage to access all of the resources on the site.

LifeSkills can be embedded into your curriculum no matter where you're located in the UK. Our comprehensive [content curriculum guide](#) provides a link between the curriculum of each of the four nations and the LifeSkills content which can support you in specific areas of the curriculum. The interactive PDF allows you to search for content according to your delivery needs.

Since we launched, schools have been using LifeSkills resources in a range of lessons and year groups across the UK. Our most recent research found that some schools and educators are focusing on money and finance lessons first, as this is a good place to start to get students to understand the link between money and careers.

These lessons can lead onto discussions about careers and the future to help promote student voice, whilst fostering a drive and ambition to succeed and a focus on developing important independent learning skills.¹



¹ Deepening the use and impact of Barclays LifeSkills, Chrysalis 2023

Start your LifeSkills journey now

[Register for an account today](#) to support students develop the skills and confidence for the world of work.



To discover hints and tips about using the programme, ideas on how to teach the programme to your class and for more information or to tell us how you've used LifeSkills.

Visit barclayslifeskills.com

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