The Skills Builder Partnership works with schools and colleges to ensure that every child and young person builds the essential skills that they need to succeed.

**The challenge**

There is a real challenge that young people are not getting the opportunities they need to build the essential skills that they need in order to thrive in the wider world. We see this framed in three broad challenges:

• Learning in the classroom: Often children and young people struggle to organise their work, articulate their ideas or work with others in a productive way.

• Thriving in further or higher education: These institutions often reflect that their students struggle without the additional support structures that schools put around them.

• Successful transitions in the working world: Employers frequently call for a greater focus on broad transferable skills that support employability.

**The Essential Skills**

Although the language and terminology in this area can often be confusing, over the last five years we have carried out a comprehensive set of reviews of essential skills. We define essential skills as ‘those highly transferable skills that almost everyone needs to do almost every job’ and which in turn support the application of knowledge and technical skills. We found that although there is great variation in the language, there are four broad areas that fulfil that definition: communication skills, self-management skills, interpersonal skills, and creative problem-solving. We balance nuance and pragmatism to focus on eight essential skills, with a pair of skills focused on each of those four broad themes. This gives us:



**At Manor**

Here at Manor Academy we have been working towards achieving Skills Builder Silver award.

The Skills Builder framework is becoming embedded into our Work Skills curriculum for Key Stage 3. We are also seeing it incorporated across the schools within each curriculum area.

This year we enjoyed running our three Skills Builder Challenge Day’s. All the pupils were really engaged and were given the opportunity to focus on each of the essential skills.