

Art of Manufacturing

To ensure the UK's automotive sector has the pipeline of skills talent it needs now and for the future, the industry and government have joined forces to form the Automotive Industrial Partnership.

One of our key priorities is to help inspire the next generation of vehicle manufacturers. An innovative programme being led by Nissan on behalf of the industry is teaching primary school pupils basic skills from an early age to help attract more work ready new entrants into the sector.

In October 2014 Nissan announced a major expansion of its schools engagement activities in the UK, using electric vehicles, motorsports and its manufacturing excellence to excite thousands of young people about careers in industry.

One of the organisation's key engagement activities is the Art of Manufacturing programme, an interactive workshop which engages and educates 10 and 11 year old primary school pupils in the automotive industry by enabling them to experience 21st century automotive design, engineering and manufacturing in practice.

Through the Automotive Industrial Partnership nearly 5,000 Year 6 pupils have benefited from the Nissan delivered programme and as result of industry collaboration and Nissan proactively sharing their approach and good practice, other OEMS (including Toyota Manufacturing UK), have started to deliver similar programmes to their local schools.

"We set out to create a unique and exciting opportunity for children to discover how we manufacture high quality cars at high volumes and to take part in activities which would not normally be available to them. Other automotive employers adapting and delivering the programme will ultimately encourage more new talent to join the industry."

Ian Green,
Nissan's Senior Training Controller



Q&A

1. Why is the Art of Manufacturing programme needed?

The programme aims to inspire the next generation of vehicle manufacturers by introducing young people to the world of manufacturing. It brings young people in to a modern working environment where they learn teamwork, to improve efficiency and to build a quality product safely – all qualities that will enhance their employability skills.

2. Who is the Art of Manufacturing programme aimed at?

Year 6 primary school pupils (aged 10 and 11).

3. What does the programme comprise of?

The programme is based on a model developed at Nissan's HQ in Japan but has been tailored to match the curriculum for UK primary schools and involves "learning through doing" in the classroom and through visits to Nissan's facilities.

4. How long does it take?

The interactive programme lasts between half a day and one day.

Schools with pupils that have benefited from the programme include Swalwell Primary school in Gateshead, whose deputy headteacher Peter Hampson, said:

"The children gain so much from the Art of Manufacturing experience. They learn teamwork skills, they learn all about the possibility of careers in the industry, they learn about the production process and just really love every single second they spend here. It's really interesting for both the boys and girls to see what's available, to find out what fantastic opportunities there are and therefore to think how they may like to plan their careers."

This project has been partly supported by HM Government with Employer Ownership funding



5. How is it delivered?

Each school undertakes a project covering the history of the car industry in the UK before a visit to the manufacturing site. The Year 6 Primary school pupils then take part in a hands-on Lego production line, competing in teams to build a model car as quickly as possible.

6. What are the learning outcomes?

The programme covers teamwork, removing waste, making improvements and quality. Participants also learn about safety and equipment, how to turn steel into parts as well as having an opportunity to work with actual tools, using an impact wrench, removing a dent, manual dexterity exercises and parts selection.

7. What are the key benefits?

- The Art of Manufacturing programme is engaging over 5,000 youngsters in a fun way - inspiring many of them to become part of the automotive sector's future workforce.
- Builds confidence and employability skills in participants.
- Supports the delivery of corporate social responsibility objectives.
- Industrial Partnership provides a means of collaboration and sharing good practice with other OEMs.

The employers driving the Automotive Industrial Partnership include Bentley, BMW, Ford, GKN, Honda, Jaguar Land Rover, Nissan, Toyota and Vauxhall.

Employer led skills organisation Semta, industry trade association the SMMT, Industry Forum, the Department for Business Innovation and Skills and UKCES are also supporting the Partnership.

For more information on the Art of Manufacturing and the Automotive Industrial Partnership visit

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