

PRESS RELEASE

Wellington Hosts First Cradle to Career (C2C) Conference – A Joint Initiative from Court Fields School and Wellington Town Council

Wellington's educators, professionals, and community partners will come together on Tuesday 10th February for the town's first Cradle to Career (C2C) Conference, a launch event designed to strengthen the pathways that support children and young people from early childhood through to employment.

Hosted in partnership with the Wellington Cradle to Career (C2C) Steering Group — co-chaired by Court Fields School and Wellington Town Council — the conference will bring the "Action for Opportunity" framework to life. The event will highlight how shared ambition, aligned services, and community collaboration can remove barriers and open doors for every child.

A Day of Insight, Collaboration, and Practical Action

The conference will feature a series of interactive workshops covering key developmental stages and local priorities, including:

- Early Years - exploring the foundations that give every child the best start.
- Employability - Developing the Workforce of the Future through C2C
- Mobile Phones - understanding the impact of smartphone usage on young people and identifying practical strategies to support healthier habits.
- Building Our Reading Town - uniting educators, families, and organisations to boost reading culture and literacy outcomes across Wellington.
- Family Support and Nursery Readiness - strengthening early engagement and support for families.

An optional twilight session on Curriculum Coherence in Reading will also be available for educators seeking deeper professional development.

A Shared Vision for Wellington's Future

The Cradle to Career approach recognises that no single organisation can achieve long-term change alone. The C2C Conference will offer a space for schools, early years providers, employers, health and social care teams, voluntary organisations, and community groups to think collectively about how Wellington can become a place where every child thrives.

By aligning local expertise and resources, the C2C Steering Group aims to create a joined-up system that supports children at every stage of life, from their earliest experiences through to their pathway into adulthood and employment.

Quotes

Polly Matthews, Headteacher at Court Fields School, commented:

"I'm so thrilled for Court Fields School to be hosting the first Wellington Cradle 2 Career Conference. It shows the appetite for collective community action here in our town to improve the life chances of our current and future children and young people. I feel very fortunate to work with individuals, organisations and agencies with such a commitment to making change in our community. Thank you to everyone for their support."

Ed Vainker OBE, Reach Foundation, said:

"I am delighted to be joining leaders from across Wellington. At Reach, we are working with 70 communities around the country where school leaders are coming together to deepen the role that schools play in their communities to ensure that all children can enjoy lives full of choice and opportunity. Wellington is at the cutting edge of this work - bringing leaders from across the community to collaborate and solve complex problems together."

Dave Farrow, Chief Executive Officer/Town Clerk Wellington Town Council, added:

"Wellington has a strong sense of community, and Cradle to Career builds on that by connecting the people, places, and services that shape our town. This conference is a chance to strengthen those bonds and ensure every family knows they're supported – from the very start through to the future of employment. That's why Wellington Town Council is proud to be leading, in partnership with Court Fields School, on the Cradle to Career initiative."