

# What is a social enterprise?



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### Curriculum links

Geography, PSHE, Maths, Computing, Numeracy and Literacy

### Skills development (3 high to 1 low)



### Learning Aims

To make children more aware of a social enterprise and how they might want to start thinking about their own ideas and what they want to change.

### Resources Required

- Pens, paper, access to the internet or trip to local area
- *Bright Stars- Worksheet - What are the 5Ps of Business*
- Post-it notes for the children to stick up their ideas on a wall
- Examples of local social enterprises

### Lesson plan

#### What is a social enterprise?

A social enterprise is a business that is changing the world for the better. Like traditional businesses they aim to make a profit, but it is what they do with that profit that makes them different – reinvesting or donating them to improve people’s lives in our communities or to address environmental issues. By selling goods/services social enterprises can create employment and/or reinvest their profits back into the local community.

Show them examples (detailed below) of local social enterprises.

#### Examples of different Cumbrian social enterprise businesses:

- **Centre for Leadership Performance (CforLP)** – supporting schools and businesses to develop leadership skills and create business leaders for today and tomorrow  
<https://www.cforlp.org.uk/>
- **Calderwood House Coffee** – supporting homelessness through the sale of coffee  
<https://youtu.be/oYYOp3RpK4w>
- **Vista Veg** – a grower’s co-operative based in Crosby Ravensworth, Cumbria  
<https://www.vistaveg.co.uk/>

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- **Alpacaly ever after** – llama rehoming and llama experiences accessible to all, based in Keswick  
<https://alpacalyeverafter.co.uk>
- **Rebike** – collecting and renovating bicycles for resale at affordable prices, based in Carlisle  
<https://www.rebikecumbria.co.uk/>
- **Rebuild site** – taking construction project surplus materials to use in community and charity projects  
<https://www.rebuildsite.co.uk/>

## **Optional:**

Volunteers to support pupils with developing a survey they can use to ask their fellow school pupils and the local community what differences they would like to see.

## **Get the children to work in teams to research different businesses in their local area.**

This could be done by taking the children out into the local community or by using the internet. Get them to write a list of the companies and then work out if any/how many of them are social enterprises.

You could get them to identify one social enterprise business that is important to them and get them to write down:

- The name of the social enterprise
- What do they do – what product or service do they provide?
- What do they do with their profits?
- How long has the social enterprise been running?
- Who set up the company?
- Use the 5Ps model sheet as a way of understanding how the social enterprise meets people's needs

(Examples: WWF, Children in Need, a Food Bank)

The children could then prepare a short presentation to share their findings with the rest of the class.

Ask the children to start brainstorming what they want to make a difference with or change.

## **If you have any questions, please contact:**

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