Money Smart is a financial education programme aimed at 11-25 year olds who are Deaf or sight impaired. It aims to build financial capability and improve access to services, focusing on public and personal finance.

Topics include everything from budgeting and banking to fraud and spending.

Oliver Manoochehri, Maths Teacher

I’ve seen at lunchtimes problems some of our pupils have issues with paying for things like getting their change back and we often have to step in.

I’ve really like having Money Mechanics at our school. Our students have barriers at home. It’s hard for their parents to communicate and teach them about these things. So to have outside people help them access what they can’t at home is really valuable.

As a Maths teacher, it’s been valuable. Money Mechanics links into what we’re trying to do at the school.

It gives them a deeper understanding and opened their eyes to what money really is.

This information doesn’t come from a lot of places. They know money is important but not necessarily what knowledge they will need. It’s better to get it now and have a head start than have a shock you get older. It’s hard for them to perceive that but Money Mechanics gives them an expectation of what the world is going to be like in the future.
Case Study: Braidwood Trust School for the Deaf

It helps me as a Maths teacher as it gives a better understanding of the concepts we’re trying to teach. It creates a link between maths and the real world of percentages, interest rates and tax.

For example, by calculating government spending I can see them carefully adding and weighing up the balances and what they mean. It brings it to life really and because the teachers where deaf, it gave our students an extra edge to access something – it wouldn’t have been as absorbing or interesting!

We’re trying to prepare them for the real world.

Money Mechanics spoke to them about what future has in store for them. Not just giving them a better understanding of what they are entitled to but also jobs, how much do you think they get paid? They made it all realistic. It’s added a lot of value.”

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