Provider Access Policy

Date Policy due to be reviewed: September 2027

Committee Responsible for Policy: Finance Committee

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Introduction
This policy statement sets out our school's arrangements for managing the access of providers to the school for the purpose of giving them information about the provider's education or training offer. This complies with the school's legal obligations under Section 42B of the Education Act 1997 and has been updated in line with DFE: 'Careers guidance and access for education and training providers' (May 2025).

Pupil Entitlement
All pupils in years 8 to 13 are entitled:

- to find out about technical education qualifications and apprenticeships opportunities, as part of a careers programme which provides information on the full range of education and training options to inform consideration of post-14, post-16 and post-18 options and progression to the next stage of education or training.
- to hear from a range of local providers about the opportunities they offer, including technical education and apprenticeships - through options events, assemblies and group discussions and taster events.
- to understand how to make applications for the full range of academic and technical courses.

For pupils of compulsory school age these encounters are mandatory and there will be a minimum of two encounters for pupils during the 'first key phase' (Year 8 to 9) and two encounters for pupils during the 'second key phase' (Year 10 to 11). For pupils in the 'third key phase' (Year 12 to 13), particularly those that have not yet decided on their next steps, there are two more provider encounters available during this period.

This will ensure every pupil, what ever their ambitions, has at least six opportunities to meet providers of technical education or apprenticeships during years 8-13. This will give pupils the opportunity to consider how studying or training in different ways, and in different environments, might suit their skills, interests and aptitudes.

These provider encounters will be scheduled during the main school hours, and the provider will be given a reasonable amount of time to, as a minimum:

- share information about both the provider and the approved technical education qualification (i.e. T-Levels) and apprenticeships that the provider offers
- explain what career routes the technical education qualifications or apprenticeships could lead to
- provide insights into what it might be like to learn or train with that provider (including the opportunity to meet staff and pupils from the provider)
- answer questions from pupils
- provide meaningful and appropriate encounters for SEND pupils.

Meaningful Provider Encounters
One encounter is defined as one meeting/session between pupils and one provider. We are committed to providing meaningful encounters to all pupils using the Making it Meaningful checklist.

Meaningful online engagement is also an option, and we are open to providers that can provide live online engagement with our pupils.

Previous Providers
In previous terms/years, we have invited the following providers from the local area to speak to our pupils:

- Ask Apprenticeships
- Autodesk
- Colas UK
- Birmingham Repertory Theatre

- National Theatre
- JLR
- Swift ChildCare
- Royal Air Force
- Royal Navy
- UB Racing and Maker Space
- Severn Trent
- Amazon
- ICE CitizenGen
- Gymshark UK
- Siemens UK
- Mondolez
- BAE Systems
- HS2
- STEM Endeavour
- Active Futures
- National Citizenship Service
- PAL Live events
- Aston University
- University of Birmingham
- City of Birmingham University
- University of Gloucestershire
- Oxford University
- University of Warwick
- Halesowen College
- Cadbury College
- Dudley College
- South and City College
- BMET College
- Solihull College

Management of Provider Access Requests Procedure
A provider wishing to request access should contact Mr Damon Garifff, Deputy Headteacher, or Mrs Jess Abbotts, Careers and Work Experience Lead, on 0121 464 3172.

Opportunities for Access
The school offers the six provider encounters required by law and several additional events, integrated into the school careers programme. We will offer providers an opportunity to come into school to speak to pupils or their parents/carers.

Several events are scheduled into the school's calendar to support our careers programme. Providers are welcomed into the school to speak to students and/or their parents/carers at these times. These events include:

- Careers Fair
- Apprenticeship events during National Apprenticeship Week
- Careers events during National Careers Week
- Year 9/GCSE Options Evening

Alongside these larger events, Life Skills lessons and assemblies offer further opportunities to arrange specific events. Please speak to our Careers Lead, Mrs Abbotts, to identify the most suitable opportunity for you.

Premises and Facilities
The school will make the main hall, classrooms or private meeting rooms available for discussions between the provider and pupils, as appropriate to the activity. The school will also make available AV and other specialist equipment to support provider presentations.

This will all be discussed and agreed in advance of the visit with the Careers Lead or a member of their team.

Meaningful online engagement is also an option, and we are open to providers that can provide live online engagement with our pupils. Providers are welcome to leave a copy of their prospectus or other relevant course literature at the Careers Library, which is managed by the school librarian. The Careers Library is available to all pupils at lunch and break times.

Granting and Refusing Access

When considering provider applications for access the following will be considered:

- The reputability of the provider
- The needs and aspirations of the pupils attending the event
- The safeguarding duty of the school

Complaints
Any complaints with regard to provider access can be raised following the school complaints procedure.