# Provider Access Policy Statement

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| **Updated by:** | Louise Hall (ST) | **Date:** November 2026 |
| **Approved by:** | Jordan Hutchinson (HT) | **Date:** November 2026 |
| **Last reviewed on:** | November 2026 | |
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## 1. Aims

This policy statement aims to set out our school's arrangements for managing the access of education and training providers to students for the purpose of giving them information about their offer. It sets out:

- Procedures in relation to requests for access
- The grounds for granting and refusing requests for access
- Details of premises or facilities to be provided to a person who is given access

## 2. Statutory requirements

Schools are required to ensure that there is an opportunity for a range of education and training providers to access students in years 8 to 11 for the purposes of informing them about approved technical education, qualifications or apprenticeships.

Schools must provide a minimum of 4 encounters with technical education or training providers to all pupils in years 8 to 11 (see more detail in section 2.1 below).

Schools must also have a policy statement that outlines the circumstances in which education and training providers will be given access to these pupils.

This is outlined in section 42B of the Education Act 1997, the Skills and Post-16 Education Act 2022 and on page 43 of guidance from the Department for Education (DfE) on careers guidance and access for education and training providers.

This policy shows how our school complies with these requirements.

### 2.1 The 4 encounters schools must offer to all pupils in years 8 to 11

Schools must offer:

- **2 encounters for pupils during the 'first key phase' (year 8 or 9)**
  - All pupils must attend
  - Encounters can take place any time during year 8, and between 1 September and 28 February during year 9
- **2 encounters for pupils during the 'second key phase' (year 10 or 11)**
  - All pupils must attend
  - Encounters can take place any time during year 10, and between 1 September and 28 February during year 11

These encounters must happen for a reasonable period of time during the standard school day. Schools can continue to provide complementary experiences, but encounters outside of school hours won't count towards these requirements.

Schools must ask each provider to provide the following information as a minimum:

- Information about the provider and the approved qualifications or apprenticeships they offer
- Information about what careers those qualifications and apprenticeships can lead to
- What learning or training with the provider is like
- Answers to any questions from pupils

### 2.2 Meaningful provider encounters

Our school is committed to providing meaningful encounters to all pupils.

1 encounter is defined as 1 meeting/session between pupils and 1 provider.

Meaningful live online engagement is also an option at our school.

## 3. Pupil entitlement

All pupils in years 8 to 11 at Armfield Academy are entitled to:

- Find out about technical education qualifications and apprenticeship opportunities as part of our careers programme, which provides information on the full range of education and training options available at each transition point
- Hear from a range of local providers about the opportunities they offer, including technical education and apprenticeships, e.g. through activities and events such as options events, assemblies, taster events, careers fair.
- Understand how to make applications for the full range of academic and technical courses

## 4. Management of provider access requests

### 4.1 Procedure

A provider wishing to request access should contact Mrs. L Hall, ST - Personal Development.

**Telephone:** 01257 207702

**Email:** l.hall@armfield.fcat.org.uk

## 4.2 Opportunities for access

A number of events, integrated into our careers programme, will offer providers an opportunity to come into school to speak to students and/or their parents/carers:

| September 2026 | Event: |
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| Monday 15th 8.45 - 9.15 | Preston College yr 11 next steps assembly |
| Monday 21st September | UCLAN - Y7 University Life (60 students) |

| October 2026 | Event: |
|---|---|
| Monday 5th October 8.45 - 9.15 | Blackpool Sixth Form yr 11 next steps assembly |
| Tuesday 6th October 8.45 - 9.15 | Myerscough next steps Assembly year 11 |
| Tuesday 8th October | UCLAN - Y10 & 11 Lancs Young scientist (30 pupils) |
| Monday 12th October 8.45 - 9.15 | Cardinal Newman yr 11 next steps assembly |

| November 2026 | Event: |
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| Monday 28th November 8.45 - 9.15 | Blackpool & Fylde College next steps assembly |
| Monday 5th November 11.15 - 12.55 | Blackpool Sixth Form English next steps masterclass with year 10. |
| Wednesday 4th November | Year 11 Parents Evening |
| Tuesday 18th 8.45 - 9.15 | Joint year 10-11 Army assembly |
| Thursday 20th 08:45-12:00 | Preston College tour and Q&A with staff/students |
| Tuesday 25th 15:00-15:30 | Blackpool & Fylde College drop-in application support session in library |

| December 2026 | Event: |
|---|---|
| Wednesday 2nd 3.30-5.30 | Aspire careers fair |
| Thursday 4th | UCLAN - Y9 Young Scientist Centre (60 students) |
| Monday 8th 8.45 - 9.15 | Training 2000 Year 11 assembly |
| Friday 11th 9-12 | Yr 11 Sports course taster at B & FC |

| January 2027 | Event: |
|---|---|
| Wednesday 7th 8.45 - 9.15 | Year 9 pre careers fair assembly |
| Wednesday 20th Jan 5-7pm | Yr 9 Parents evening |
| Wednesday 27th 09:00-12:00 | Year 9 Winter Gardens Career Festival |

| February 2027 | Event: |
|---|---|
| Monday 2nd 8.45 - 9.15 | Training 2000 Year 11 assembly |
| Monday 9th 8.45-9.15 | Yr 11 pre-mock interviews assembly |
| Tuesday 10th 15:00-15:20 | Cardinal Newman yr 10 assembly |
| Wednesday 11th 10am-12pm | Mock Interviews year 11 |
| Wednesday 11th 5pm-6:30pm | Yr 10 work experience launch night |
| Thursday 12th | UCLAN - Y9 Young Creative Centre (60 students) |
| March 2027 | Event: |
| Wednesday 3rd 4-6 | KS4 Progress Evening |
| Wednesday 10th 6-7.30 | Year 9 Options Evening |

| April 2026 | Event: |
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| May 2026 | Event: |
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| June 2026 | Event |
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| Wednesday 23rd 9am-2pm | Cardinal Newman yr10 taster day |
| Thursday 24th 10am-2pm | Preston College yr10 taster day (Minibus) |
| Friday 25th 9am-12pm | Blackpool & Fylde College Y10 taster morning |
| Monday June 28th – Friday 3rd July | Year 10 work experience |
| Tuesday 30th | UCLAN - Y8 Sports Studies (60 Students) |
| Thursday 10th 2027 08:45am - 09:15am | Victrex introductory Y8 assembly |
| Monday 14th 09:15am - 10:00am | Victrex - Harry to visit Y8 classes taking Q&A on project |
| Monday 14th June - Wednesday 14th July | Victrex project work begins: PSHE classes Armfield Academy Y8 - |

| July 2026 | |
|---|---|
| Monday 5th | Blackpool Sixth Yr10 Taster Day |

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| Wednesday 8th 5-7pm | Year 10 parents evening |
| Thursday 15th - 10am-12pm | Victrex Yr 8 -Dragons Den Final |
| Monday 19th - 10am-12pm | Victrex Yr 8 -Trip for Winners |
| Tuesday 20th - 10am-12pm | Victrex Trip for PP/NEET Students |
| Wednesday 21st - 10am-11am | Victrex Yr 8 - Feedback questioning with students with Matthew |

**Please Note: ******Lucy Ross of EBPNW in as official School Career Advisor: Based in school meeting room every Thursday 9am-3:30pm:*** * appointments per day plus drop-ins*

Please speak to our ST- Mrs. L Hall to identify the most suitable opportunity for you.

### 4.3 Granting and refusing access

A number of events are integrated into the school careers programme which would potentially offer providers an opportunity to come into school to speak to students and/or their parents. The school calendar varies from year to year so providers need to contact the member of staff named above to identify the most suitable opportunity. The events are usually arranged well in advance so it is essential that providers contact us early in the academic year to be involved in our planning. Access to students and/or parents will be granted on the understanding that information and guidance offered by providers is related to T levels, V levels (launching Sept 2027), technical courses, HTQ's (higher technical qualifications) and apprenticeship opportunities only. Providers will be expected to meet the school's safeguarding requirements, which can be found in the Safeguarding Policy Statement accessible on the school website.

### 4.4 Safeguarding

Our safeguarding/child protection policy outlines the school's procedure for checking the identity and suitability of visitors.

Education and training providers will be expected to adhere to this policy.

### 4.5 Premises and facilities

The school will make the memorial hall, classrooms or private meeting rooms available for discussions between the provider and students, 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 Leader or a member of their team. Providers are welcome to leave a copy of their prospectus or other relevant course literature in the Careers Library which is available to all students at lunch and break times.

## 5. Previous providers

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

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| Cardinal Newman | Victrex |

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| Lloyds Group | Vinci Construction |
| BFCCT | Enveco NW |
| Rosscon | NHS |
| Blackpool Pleasure Beach | Moore & Smalley |
| NHSBSA | Blackpool Sixth Form |
| UCLAN | Hunters |
| DES Group | Inspira |
| De Puy – Johnson & Johnson | EBPNW |
| Stafford RS | Great Places Housing Group |

## 6. Pupil destinations

Last year, our year 11 pupils moved to a range of providers in the local area after school: The most recent destination data is from 2026.

## 7. Complaints

Any complaints related to provider access can be raised following the school complaints procedure or directly with The Careers & Enterprise Company via provideraccess@careersandenterprise.co.uk

## 8. Links to other policies

- Safeguarding/child protection policy
- Careers guidance policy
- Curriculum policy
- Complaints policy

## 9. Monitoring arrangements

The school's arrangements for managing the access of education and training providers to pupils are monitored by the Acting Headteacher Dr. J Hutchinson.

This policy will be reviewed by Mrs. L Hall annually.

At every review, the policy will be approved by the governing board.