

Provider Access Policy Introduction

This policy statement sets out the 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.

Pupil entitlement

All pupils in years 7 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 available at each transition point;
- 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' (years 7 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, which are optional for pupils to attend.

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 and apprenticeships that the provider offers
- explain what career routes those options 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.

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 are able to 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: (this represents a sample of our providers)

- NHS
- Severn Trent Water
- PWC
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Destinations of our pupils

Last year our year 11 pupils moved to a wide range of providers in the local area after school: (this represents a sample of the destinations)

- Sandwell College
- Matthew Bolton College
- Walsall College
- Sutton College

Last year our year 13 pupils moved to range of providers in the local area after school:

- Aston University
- BCU
- Birmingham University
- University of Wolverhampton
- Derby University

Management of provider access requests

Procedure

A provider wishing to request access should contact Ms Javaria Raja, Careers and Personal Development support assistant via the following email address; Javaria.Raja@Fortis.set.org.

Opportunities for access

The school offers the six provider encounters required by law (marked in bold text) and a number of 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 or carers.

Please speak to our Careers Leader to identify the most suitable opportunity for you.

	Autumn Term	Spring Term	Summer Term
Year 8	University/ Technical College visits	What's my line?! – Alumni Event. To include fact sharing of local, regional and national opportunities and skills requirement	Technical/vocational tasters at local college/s, training providers
Year 9	Meeting with careers adviser	Careers Fair to include information on options choices which lead to their aspirational next steps. 40+ providers to include, universities, colleges, apprenticeships, local and national businesses.	<i>No encounters – legislation requires encounters to take place by 28 February if in year 9</i>
Year 10	Post 16 technical education options assembly with General Further Education College	Life Skills – work experience preparation	Technical/vocational tasters at local college/s, training providers
Year 11	Post 16 provider open evenings. Post 16 apprenticeships assembly Meetings with careers adviser Post 16 applications	Careers Fair to include information on options choices which lead to their aspirational next steps. 40+ providers to include, universities, colleges, apprenticeships, local and national businesses.	<i>No encounters – legislation requires encounters to take place by 28 February if in year 11</i> Confirmation of post-16 education and training destinations for all pupils
Year 12	Careers Fair to include information on options choices which lead to their aspirational next steps. 40+ providers to include, universities, colleges, apprenticeships, local and national businesses.	Small group sessions: future education, training and employment options Meetings with careers adviser	Technical/vocational tasters at local college/s, training providers

	Autumn Term	Spring Term	Summer Term
Year 13	Post 18 assembly – with higher and degree apprenticeship providers Workshops – HE and higher apprenticeship applications	Meetings with careers adviser	<i>No encounters – legislation requires encounters to take place by 28 February if in year 13</i> Confirmation of post-18 education and training destinations for all pupils

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 Leader or a member of their team.

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

Providers are welcome to leave a copy of their prospectus or other relevant course literature at our main reception. This information will then be placed in our careers hub for students to access at lunch times and after school.

Complaints:

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

Approval and review

Approved by Head Teacher

Next review: *January 2025*

Signed:  Head teacher