



**Careers Access Statement**  
**Make It Different, Hartlepool Free School**

**Date of last review:** January 2025

**Approved by:** Trust Board

**Review period:** 3 years

**Responsibility:** Careers Leader

**Next review date:** January 2028

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### **Introduction**

This policy outlines the arrangements at Make It Different, Hartlepool Free School, for managing the access of providers to pupils to provide information about education or training opportunities. It ensures compliance with Section 42B of the Education Act 1997 and statutory guidance outlined in the DfE's 'Careers guidance and access for education and training providers.' The policy is rooted in the Gatsby Benchmarks to ensure quality careers provision and tailored to meet the unique needs of SEMH (Social, Emotional, and Mental Health) learners.

All young people need a planned program of activities throughout their school years to equip them to make informed decisions and manage their next steps effectively. At Make It Different, we aim to provide personalised careers education that supports students' aspirations and prepares them for adulthood.

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### **Pupil Entitlement**

All pupils in Years 7-11 are entitled to:

1. Access information about the full range of technical education qualifications, apprenticeship opportunities, and other post-16 pathways as part of a comprehensive careers program.

2. Hear from a range of local providers about opportunities available to them, including technical education and apprenticeships, through events such as assemblies, group discussions, and taster sessions.
3. Understand how to make applications for academic, technical, or vocational courses.
4. Receive impartial guidance to support decision-making and planning for their future.
5. Engage in activities designed to build resilience, confidence, and employability skills while promoting self-awareness and adaptability.

The program emphasizes helping students identify appropriate strategies and coping skills for their future, including collaboration with families and external agencies to support long-term goals.

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## **Management of Provider Access Requests**

### **Procedure**

Providers wishing to request access should contact: Tristan Keates - **Careers Leader**

**Phone:** 01429 450081

**Email:** [admin@hartlepoolfreeschool.org.uk](mailto:admin@hartlepoolfreeschool.org.uk)

### **Opportunities for Access**

A variety of events are integrated into the school's careers program to offer providers opportunities to engage with students and parents/carers. Examples include:

- Assemblies and presentations on career pathways and technical education.
- PSHE sessions dedicated to life skills and employability.
- Small group discussions and one-to-one careers guidance.
- Parent engagement evenings to involve families in the decision-making process.

Providers are encouraged to contact the Careers Leader to identify the most suitable access opportunities.

### **Premises and Facilities**

Make It Different will provide appropriate spaces, such as classrooms, the main hall, or private meeting rooms, for provider activities. AV and other resources will be made available upon request. Providers may leave materials, including prospectuses, with the Careers Leader to share with students and families.

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## Careers Program and Support

At Make It Different, we aim to prepare students for their next steps by offering a varied and personalised careers education program. The key components include:

- **Understanding Yourself:** Building self-awareness and confidence in preparation for adulthood.
- **Career Research and Exploration:** Encouraging students to explore different sectors and opportunities.
- **Life Skills and Employability:** Developing resilience, adaptability, and financial capability.
- **Enterprise Skills:** Promoting initiative, problem-solving, and teamwork.
- **Application and Selection Process:** Supporting students in managing transitions and making informed choices.

Careers education is delivered through:

- PSHE and citizenship sessions.
- Tutor time activities.
- Duke of Edinburgh sessions.
- Structured reviews and reports.
- Planned in-school and external activities for Key Stages 3 and 4.

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## Supporting SEMH Students

The careers program at Make It Different recognizes the unique needs of SEMH students. It emphasises:

- Collaborative planning with families and external providers to ensure smooth transitions.
- Regular review of Education, Health, and Care Plans (EHCPs) to align careers education with personal aspirations.
- Personalised guidance to help students develop realistic and aspirational pathways.
- Engaging with local authorities and SEN teams to provide comprehensive support.

Students benefit from ongoing discussions about their career aspirations and receive tailored support to prepare for adulthood, including independent living and supported employment where applicable.

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### **Approval and Review**

This statement supports the Trust's Careers Policy, and will be reviewed every three years or when the policy or legislation changes, ensuring compliance with statutory guidance and alignment with the needs of our students.

**Approved by:** Trust Board

**Date:** January 2025