



Provider Access Policy

Drafted By	Mrs L Weaver
Date of Approval	September 2026
Approved By	Academy Council
Review Date	September 2027

Introduction

This policy statement sets out the school's arrangements for managing the access of providers to learners at 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.

Learner Entitlement

All students in Years 7–11 receive a planned programme of careers education, information, advice and guidance.

In accordance with Provider Access Legislation, students in Years 8–11 are entitled to opportunities to:

- find out about technical education qualifications and apprenticeship opportunities as part of a careers programme which provides information about the full range of education and training options available at each transition point;
- hear directly from a range of education and training providers about the opportunities they offer, including technical education and apprenticeships; and
- understand how to make applications for the full range of academic, technical and vocational courses and apprenticeships.

Our school is committed to ensuring that students understand the full range of pathways available to them and that information provided through the careers programme is impartial and does not favour one education, training or employment route over another.

Our Framework

Year 7

Gatsby Benchmark targeted	Planned activities
GB1, GB2, GB3, GB4, GB5 and GB7	National Careers Week and National Apprenticeship Week – Students will have the opportunity to engage in activities and meet providers for the purpose of informing them about approved technical education qualifications or apprenticeships
	Careers module delivery within the Personal Development Programme – Students will engage with the 'Self-awareness and introduction to the world of work' unit
	Aspirations questionnaires – these will be asked throughout the year to gauge aspirations and guide opportunities
	Careers in the curriculum engage sessions – these will tie subjects to careers and will show transferable skills
	Drop in careers discussions – experts from different careers will share their knowledge with the students (STEM Ambassador Air Products BAE Systems/ B-Arts/Staffs Council/ Sports Ambassador)
	Access to university discussions through HH projects
	Further Education Visit – Stoke College – Catering department
	Careers links during field trips

Year 8

Gatsby Benchmark targeted	Planned activities
GB1, GB2, GB3, GB4, GB5 and GB7	National Careers Week and National Apprenticeship Week – Students will have the opportunity to engage in activities and meet providers for the purpose of informing them about approved technical education qualifications or apprenticeships
	Careers module delivery within the Personal Development Programme – Students will engage with the ‘Employability Skills’ unit
	Aspirations questionnaires – these will be asked throughout the year to gauge aspirations and guide opportunities
	Careers in the curriculum engage sessions – these will tie subjects to careers and will show transferable skills
	Drop in careers discussions – experts from different careers will share their knowledge with the students (STEM Ambassador BAE Systems/ Sports Ambassador/Fire Service)
	Further Education Presentation and Access to university discussions through HH projects
	Careers links during field trips

Year 9

Gatsby Benchmark targeted	Planned activities
GB1, GB2, GB3, GB4, GB5, GB6, GB7 and GB8	National Careers Week and National Apprenticeship Week – Students will have the opportunity to engage in activities and meet providers for the purpose of informing them about approved technical education qualifications or apprenticeships
	Careers module delivery within the Personal Development Programme – Students will engage with the ‘Supporting your decision-making building up to your GCSEs’
	Aspirations questionnaires – these will be asked throughout the year to gauge aspirations and guide opportunities
	Careers in the curriculum engage sessions – these will tie subjects to careers and will show transferable skills
	Drop in careers discussions – experts from different careers will share their knowledge with the students (STEM Ambassador Air Products)
	Options Evening – Students and parents will have access to our career’s advisor and to staff from local FE colleges, sixth form colleges and apprenticeship providers
	Careers visit
	Further Education Presentation and Access to university discussions through HH projects
	STEM Activities – Hosted by GE Engineering
	Careers links during field trips

Year 10

Gatsby Benchmark targeted	Planned activities
GB1, GB2, GB3, GB4, GB5, GB6, GB7 and GB8	National Careers Week and National Apprenticeship Week – Students will have the opportunity to engage in activities and meet providers for the purpose of informing them about approved technical education qualifications or apprenticeships
	Careers module delivery within the Personal Development Programme – Students will engage with the ‘Your role in the workforce – how do we make sure we are ready?’
	Employability skills workshops – delivered by KSS staff and external speakers. Focusing on CV preparation, communication techniques, interview techniques and what employers want.
	Aspirations questionnaires – these will be asked throughout the year to gauge aspirations and guide opportunities
	Careers in the curriculum engage sessions – these will tie subjects to careers and will show transferable skills
	Drop in careers discussions – experts from different careers will share their knowledge with the students
	Extra Special Parents Evening – Students and parents will have access to our career’s advisor and to staff from local FE colleges, sixth form colleges and apprenticeship providers
	Careers related assemblies – Colleges, Sixth Form, employers and apprenticeship providers will deliver assemblies. Some of these will be to the whole cohort and some will be focused on particular students.
	Aspirations Summit – Kings Hall, Stoke
	University visit opportunities through HH
	Careers links during field trips
	Work Experience
	National Careers Service – Assembly and activities programme

Year 11

Gatsby Benchmark targeted	Planned activities
GB1, GB2, GB3, GB4, GB5, GB6, GB7 and GB8	National Careers Week and National Apprenticeship Week – Students will have the opportunity to engage in activities and meet providers for the purpose of informing them about approved technical education qualifications or apprenticeships
	Careers module delivery within the Personal Development Programme – Students will engage with the ‘Post 16 Options and Preparation’
	Access to independent careers advisor – students requiring advice and guidance are given a one-to-one meeting with the careers advisor Martin Folan
	Applying for next steps workshops – delivered by KSS staff and external speakers. Focusing on CV preparation, communication techniques, interview techniques and what employers want.

	Aspirations questionnaires – these will be asked throughout the year to gauge aspirations and guide opportunities
	Careers in the curriculum engage sessions – these will tie subjects to careers and will show transferable skills
	Drop in careers discussions – experts from different careers will share their knowledge with the students
	Extra Special Parents Evening – Students and parents will have access to our career’s advisor and to staff from local FE colleges, sixth form colleges and apprenticeship providers
	Careers related assemblies – Colleges, Sixth Form, employers and apprenticeship providers will deliver assemblies. Some of these will be to the whole cohort and some will be focused on particular students.
	Aspirations Summit – Kings Hall, Stoke
	University visit and Access to university discussions through HH projects
	Information provided to students regarding further education, higher education and employer opportunities
	National Careers Service – Assembly and activities programme

Management of Provider Access Requests

Provider Encounters

As an 11–16 secondary school, The Kidsgrove Secondary School will ensure that all students receive the provider encounters required during the phases in which they attend the school.

Students will receive:

- two mandatory provider encounters during the first key phase (Years 8–9); and
- two mandatory provider encounters during the second key phase (Years 10–11).

Where an encounter takes place during Year 9 or Year 11, it will take place between 1 September and 28 February, in accordance with statutory requirements.

The school will ensure that the two encounters within each key phase involve different providers. Encounters will take place during the standard school day for a reasonable period of time and will be available to all students within the relevant cohort.

The school will not restrict attendance to selected groups of students. Appropriate support and reasonable adjustments will be considered to ensure that students with SEND and other additional needs are able to participate meaningfully.

During each statutory provider encounter, providers will be given a reasonable amount of time to:

- share information about their organisation and the approved technical education qualifications and/or apprenticeships they offer;
- explain the career routes to which these options may lead;
- provide students with an insight into what it is like to learn or train with that provider, including opportunities to meet staff and, where appropriate, current learners or apprentices; and
- provide students with an opportunity to ask questions.

Provider encounters will be planned to be meaningful, age appropriate and relevant to the students involved.

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. Where possible, encounters will include opportunities for two-way interaction between students and providers rather than solely the passive receipt of information.

Previous providers

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

- City of Stoke on Trent Sixth Form College
- Stoke on Trent College
- Newcastle Under Lyme College
- Kings Sixth Form
- Amazing Apprenticeships
- LLS Online
- Reaseheath College
- St Joseph's College
- Macclesfield College

Opportunities for provider encounters

The school offers the six provider encounters required by law 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.

Granting and refusing access requests

All requests from education and training providers will be considered fairly and impartially by the Careers Leader.

Where possible, requests will be accommodated within the school's planned careers programme. In considering a request, the school will take account of:

- the relevance and age appropriateness of the proposed activity;
- the needs and interests of students;
- the existing careers programme and planned provider encounters;
- the availability of suitable accommodation, staffing and curriculum time;
- safeguarding requirements; and
- whether the proposed activity contributes to students' understanding of the full range of education, technical and apprenticeship pathways.

A request may be declined where it cannot reasonably be accommodated, where appropriate safeguarding requirements cannot be met, where the proposed activity is not suitable for the age or needs of students, or where substantially similar provision has already been arranged.

The school will not refuse access on the basis that a provider offers a technical, vocational or apprenticeship pathway rather than an academic route.

Safeguarding

The school's safeguarding procedures will apply to all activities involving external education, training and apprenticeship providers. Providers will be expected to comply with the school's safeguarding requirements and any relevant procedures communicated to them prior to their visit.

The school will ensure that appropriate arrangements are in place for the supervision of students during provider encounters. Any concerns relating to safeguarding will be managed in accordance with the school's Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy.

Premises and facilities

The school will make appropriate rooms and facilities available for discussions, presentations and other activities between providers and students. The facilities provided will be appropriate to the nature and size of the activity and appropriate technology will be made available where required and agreed in advance.

Providers are welcome to supply relevant prospectuses, course information and other appropriate materials, which will be made accessible to students through the school's careers provision.

Information relating to relevant post-16 education, training and apprenticeship opportunities may also be shared with students through the school's careers communication channels.

Procedure

A provider wishing to request access should contact Mrs Weaver (Assistant Headteacher – Careers Leader) on 01782 948250 or Larissa.Weaver@kss.set.org