



Provider access policy statement

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1. Aims

At Little Lever School we aim to provide all pupils from year 8 to 11 with meaningful opportunities to explore a wide range of future options.

This policy statement aims to set out our school's arrangements for managing the access of education and training providers to pupils 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 provider who is given access

As a school we aim to:

- Develop knowledge and awareness among our pupils of all career pathways available to them, including technical qualifications and apprenticeships
- Support pupils in learning more about opportunities for education and training outside of school, before they make crucial choices about their future options
- Reduce drop-out from courses and avoid the risk of pupils becoming NEET (not in education, employment or training)

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 13 for the purposes of informing them about approved technical education, qualifications or apprenticeships.

Schools must provide a minimum of 6 encounters with technical education or training providers to all pupils in years 8 to 13 (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
- Education and Skills Act 2008
- The School Information (England) Regulations 2008
- The Skills and Post-16 Education Act 2022
- 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.

3. Pupil entitlement

All pupils in years 8 to 11 at Little Lever School are entitled to:

- Find out about further education training, 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 and career cafes
- Understand how to make applications for the full range of academic and technical courses
- Have a minimum of 4 encounters with providers

These encounters must happen for a reasonable period of time during the standard school day.

Access to providers is available and promoted to allow all pupils to access information about other providers of further education and apprenticeships. We are committed to encouraging all pupils to make decisions about their future based on impartial information.

Pupils in year 8 and 9

All pupils in these year groups are offered:

- 2 encounters with education and training providers
 - All pupils must attend
 - Encounters can take place any time during year 8, and between 1 September and 28 February during year 9

Pupils in year 10 and 11

All pupils in these year groups are offered, as a minimum:

- 2 encounters with education and training providers
 - All pupils must attend
 - Encounters can take place any time during year 10, and between 1 September and 28 February during year 11

3.1 Meaningful encounters with providers

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

A meaningful encounter:

- Is where the pupil can explore what it is like to learn, develop and succeed in that environment
- Involves meeting both staff and learners/trainees
- Has a clear purpose
- Is underpinned by learning outcomes that are appropriate to the needs of the pupil
- Involves a 2-way interaction between the pupil and the provider
- Includes information about the provider, such as their recruitment and selection processes, the qualifications that provider offers and the careers these could lead to
- Describes what learning or training with the provider is like
- Is followed by opportunities for the pupil to reflect on the insights, knowledge or skills gained through the encounter

4. Management of provider access requests

4.1 Procedure

A provider wishing to request access should contact Ms M Moore, Careers Leader

Telephone: 01204 333300

Email: info@little-lever.bolton.sch.uk

4.2 Information we ask from providers

As a school we ask each provider to provide the following information for our pupils:

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

4.3 Opportunities for access

There are a number of events, integrated into our careers programme, that offer providers an opportunity to come into school to speak to pupils and/or their parents/carers.

Please speak to our careers leader to identify the most suitable opportunity for you.

The following table outlines examples of the opportunities provided for training and education providers to speak to pupils and/or their parents/carers:

	AUTUMN TERM	SPRING TERM	SUMMER TERM
YEAR 8	Assembly Career Cafe Prep Time sessions	Assembly Career Cafe Prep Time sessions	Assembly Career Cafe Prep Time sessions Parents' Evening
YEAR 9	Assembly Career Cafe Prep Time sessions	Assembly Career Cafe Prep Time sessions KS4 Options activities and events	No encounters – encounters must have taken place by 28 February
YEAR 10	Assembly Career Cafe Prep Time sessions	Assembly Career Cafe Prep Time sessions Parents' Evening	Assembly Career Cafe Prep Time sessions FE Visits
YEAR 11	Assembly Career Cafe Prep Time sessions Mock Interview Day Support with applications Parents' Evening	Assembly Career Cafe Prep Time sessions Parents' Evening	No encounters – encounters must have taken place by 28 February Confirmation of post-16 education and training destinations for all pupils

4.4 Live online encounters

We will consider requests for live online encounters with providers, which may be broadcast into classrooms or the school assembly hall. We will need to carry out technology checks in advance to make sure systems are compatible.

4.5 Granting and refusing provider access requests

Each access request will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

We will grant access requests where there is opportunity for a positive contribution to our careers programme.

4.6 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.

4.7 Premises and facilities

Little Lever School will provide an appropriate room or assembly hall to be agreed. All rooms have a computer, projector and screen provided. Computer rooms can also be arranged. The Careers Leader will organise this, working

closely with the provider to ensure the facilities are appropriate to the audience. Appropriate safeguarding checks will be carried out.

Resources will be approved in advance and providers will be met and supervised by a member of Little Lever School staff who will facilitate.

5. Working with parents and carers

We aim to involve parents and carers in our careers programme and will inform parents and carers about upcoming encounters.

If you would like to speak to the school about encounters with providers, please contact Ms M Moore, info@little-lever.bolton.sch.uk

We also welcome feedback from parents and carers throughout the year to help improve our offer of encounters with providers. Parents and carers are invited to complete a survey at parents' evenings.

6. Previous providers

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

- Alliance Learning
- Bolton 6th Form College
- Bolton at Home
- Bolton College
- Bury College
- Holy Cross 6th Form College
- Robertson Construction
- Salford City College
- Wigan and Leigh College
- Winstanley College

7. Pupil destinations

Last year, our year 11 pupils moved to a range of providers after school:

- Bolton 6th Form College
- Bolton College
- Canon Slade
- Bury College
- Holy Cross College
- Hopwood Hall College
- Salford City College

- The Manchester College
- Wigan and Leigh College
- Winstanley College

Colleges outside of Greater Manchester:

- Darwen Aldridge Community College
- Finn Valley College
- Llandudno College
- Runshaw College

8. Complaints

Any complaints about this policy should be raised to Ms M Moore, email: info@little-lever.bolton.sch.uk.

Ms Moore will raise the complaint to Mr D Mckeeon, Principal of Little Lever school.

9. Links to other policies

This Provider Access Policy Statement supports and is underpinned by key school policies including those for Careers, Child Protection, Equality and Diversity, and SEND.

10. Monitoring arrangements

Our school's arrangements for managing the access of education and training providers to pupils are monitored by Ms M Moore, Careers Leader and Assistant Principal

This policy will be reviewed by the Careers Leader annually and approved by the governing board at every review.