

PROVIDER ACCESS POLICY

September 2024

Introduction

This policy statement sets out the arrangements at Longbenton High School for managing the access of providers to students 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.

Summary (Careers and Enterprise Company, 2023) "The updated [provider access legislation \(PAL\)](#) has now been enacted. It specifies schools must provide at least **six encounters** with approved providers of apprenticeships and technical education for all their students:

- Two encounters for pupils during the 'first key phase' (year 8 or 9) that are mandatory for all pupils to attend;
- Two encounters for pupils during the 'second key phase' (year 10 or 11) that are mandatory for all pupils to attend;
- Two encounters for pupils during the 'third key phase' (year 12 or 13) that are mandatory for the school to put on but optional for pupils to attend.

This new legislation will become a key mechanism to further help learners understand and take-up, not just apprenticeships, but wider technical education options such as T-Levels and Higher Technical Qualifications."

Upon access, providers must deliver the following:

- Information about the provider and the approved technical education qualifications or apprenticeships that the provider offers;
- Information about the careers to which those technical education qualifications or apprenticeships might lead;
- A description of what learning or training with the provider is like;
- Responses to questions from the pupils about the provider or approved technical education qualifications and apprenticeships.

Rationale

High quality careers education and guidance in school or college is critical to young people's futures. It helps to prepare them for the workplace by providing a clear understanding of the world of work including the routes to jobs and careers that they might find engaging and rewarding. It supports them to acquire the self-development and career management skills they need to achieve positive employment destinations. This helps students to choose their pathways, improve their life opportunities and contribute to a productive and successful economy. As the number of apprenticeships rises every year, it becomes increasingly important that all young people have a full understanding of all the options available to them post-16 and post-18 including wider technical education options such as T-Levels and Higher Technical Qualifications.

Commitment

Longbenton High School is committed to ensuring there is an opportunity for a range of education and training providers to access students, for the purpose of informing them about approved technical education qualifications and apprenticeships. LHS is fully aware of the responsibility to set students on the path that will secure the best outcome which will enable them to progress in education and work and give employers the highly skilled people they need. That means acting impartially, in line with the statutory duty, and not showing bias towards any route, be that academic or technical. LHS endeavours to ensure that all students are aware of all routes to higher skills and are able to access information on technical options and apprenticeships (The Department of Education, July 2021: "Baker Clause": supporting students to understand the full range of education and training options, and the Provider Access Legislation, January 2023).

Aims

The LHS policy for access to other education and training providers has the following aims:

- To develop the knowledge and awareness of our students of all career pathways available to them, including technical qualifications and apprenticeships;
- To support young people to be able to learn more about opportunities for education and training outside of school before making crucial choices about their future options;
- To reduce drop out from courses and avoid the risk of students becoming NEET (young people not in education, employment or training).

Student entitlement

LHS fully supports the statutory requirement for students to have direct access to other providers of further education training, technical training and apprenticeships. The school will comply with the new legal requirement to ensure at least six encounters with providers of approved technical education qualifications or apprenticeships. This will be done within our extensive careers program in activities such as (but not limited to) careers fairs, networking, assemblies, personal development tutorials, guest speakers and provider visits.

Development

This policy has been developed and is reviewed annually by the Careers Leader, senior leadership and linked governors, based on current good practice guidelines by the Department for Education.

Links with other policies

It supports and is underpinned by key school policies including those for Careers, Child Protection, Equality and Diversity, and SEND.

Equality and diversity

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

Grounds for granting requests for access

Access will be given for providers to attend during school assemblies, timetabled careers or life lessons, and careers or raising aspirations events that LHS is arranging. Students may also travel to visit another provider as part of the trip to be organised in partnership with LHS.

A provider wishing to request access should contact Mrs A Maughan, Careers Leader
Telephone: 0191 218 9500; Email: amg@longbenton.org.uk

Opportunities for access

Many providers visit Longbenton High School each year. These are valuable and informative and help to ensure that students access the appropriate provision relating to their career aspirations. Providers talk to students during assembly time and this can be arranged at mutually convenient times during the academic year.

A number of bespoke events complement our school careers programme. Working with North Tyneside Learning Trust, we are constantly looking for employers/institutions who would like to support us in making improvements to our current offerings. If you feel that this could be you then please do not hesitate to contact Ian Williams using the procedure above. Alternatively, if you would like to be involved in activities with Longbenton High School and other Trust Schools then please contact Angie Patterson at angie.patterson@ntlearningtrust.org.uk

Premises and facilities

The school will make the main 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 at the Careers Resource Centre and they will be shared in the library which is available to all students at lunch and break times.

Live/Virtual encounters

LHS will consider live online encounters with providers where requested, and these may be broadcast into classrooms or the school assembly hall. Technology checks in advance will be required to ensure compatibility of systems.

Parents and carers

Parental involvement is encouraged, and parents may be invited to attend the events to meet the providers.

Management

The Careers Leader coordinates all provider requests and is responsible to SLT.

Monitoring review and evaluation

The Policy is monitored and evaluated annually via the Career Leader and SLT careers link.