

Provider Access Legislation Policy

Montgomery Academy - All Hallows Road, Blackpool, FY2 0AZ

Assistant Headteacher - Personal Development and disadvantaged students: Marc Taylor

Careers Leader: Liane Coultas

Careers Advisor: Jayde Shepherd

1. Introduction

This policy outlines the procedures for managing access to students by external providers for the purpose of delivering information, advice, and guidance (IAG) on education, training, and employment opportunities. It aims to ensure that all interactions between providers and students are conducted in a safe, secure, and appropriate manner. The school is committed to offering a comprehensive and inclusive careers program that is tailored to meet the needs of every student.

2. Statutory Requirements

Montgomery School Blackpool is committed to complying with all relevant legislation, including:

- **The Education Act 1997:** Section 42B outlines the school's duty to provide information about technical education, further education, and higher education.
- **The Careers Reform Act 2022:** This act strengthens the provision of careers guidance and information, advice, and guidance (IAG) in schools and colleges.
- **Provider Access Legislation (PAL):** This legislation, often referred to as the Baker Clause, places a legal duty on schools to ensure that all students in Years 8-13 have a minimum number of encounters with providers of approved technical education qualifications or apprenticeships.

3. Provider Access

3.1 Provider Encounters and Eligibility

The school will ensure that all students receive a minimum number of mandatory encounters with providers of technical education and apprenticeships. These encounters must be structured as follows:

- **Years 8 and 9:** At least **two encounters** that are mandatory for all students.
- **Years 10 and 11:** At least **two encounters** that are mandatory for all students.

Providers seeking access to students must:

- Be registered with relevant regulatory bodies (e.g., Ofsted, Skills Funding Agency).
- Have a clear and relevant offer that aligns with the school's careers strategy and the latest Gatsby Benchmarks.
- Adhere to the school's safeguarding and child protection policies, with particular attention to the needs of vulnerable and disadvantaged students and those with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND).

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3.2 Approval Process

Providers must submit a written request to the designated school contact (Careers Leader) specifying:

- The purpose of the visit.
- The target year group(s).
- The proposed date and time.
- The format of the delivery (e.g., assembly, workshop, one-to-one interviews).

The school will review the request and consider factors such as:

- Curriculum timetables.
- Safeguarding implications, including how the visit will meet the specific needs of all student groups.
- The suitability of the provider's offer, including the information they will provide on entry requirements, curriculum, and potential progression routes.
- Approved providers will receive written confirmation of the agreed arrangements.

3.3 Conditions of Access

Providers must adhere to the school's rules and regulations, including those related to safeguarding, health and safety, and data protection. Providers are required to provide students with impartial information, including:

- The full range of **technical education and apprenticeship opportunities** they offer.
- The **entry requirements** for these courses or training.
- A breakdown of the **curriculum and learning structure**, including how a student would be assessed.
- The **potential progression routes** after completing the qualification, such as employment, further study, or higher-level apprenticeships.

Providers must not promote specific institutions or courses in a biased or misleading way and must respect the confidentiality of student information. Prior consent from parents/carers must be obtained for any activities involving personal data, sensitive information, or photographs that may be used for internal or external marketing.

4. Monitoring and Evaluation

The school will monitor provider access to ensure compliance with this policy. Regular evaluation will assess the effectiveness of provider interactions and their impact on student outcomes, including through the use of student and parent feedback, as part of the school's commitment to the Gatsby Benchmarks.

5. Review

This policy will be reviewed annually to ensure its continued relevance and effectiveness. The school's Careers Leader, who is a trained professional dedicated to ongoing professional development, will lead this review to ensure compliance with all statutory guidance.

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6. Contact Information

For further information or to request provider access, please contact: Liane Coultas, Lead Learning Administrator and Careers Leader, careers@montgomery.fcat.org.uk

By adhering to this policy, Montgomery Academy, Blackpool aims to provide students with high-quality, impartial, and unbiased careers information, advice, and guidance.

7. Appeal process

The purpose of this appeals process is to ensure that all **approved technical education or apprenticeship providers** have a fair, transparent, and timely mechanism to challenge a decision by **Montgomery Academy** to deny or limit their access to students in **Years 8-11** (or year 7 inline with school careers policy), as mandated by the Provider Access Legislation (PAL).

The provider must submit a formal appeal in writing (via email f.burrows@montgomery.fcat.org.uk Headteachers PA) to the **Headteacher** Stephen Careless within **10 working days** of receiving the School's decision regarding their access request. A response will be given within 28 working days, this length of time may vary due to school holidays.