St. Wilfrid's R.C. College

Provider Access Legislation Statement (PAL) 2026-2027

Approval and review Dates.

Approval	Acting Headteacher: Mr G Sanderson	02.09.26
Next Review Date		02.09.27

Introduction

This Provider Access Statement sets out the College's arrangements for managing access to students by providers of technical education qualifications, apprenticeships and training opportunities.

This statement fulfils the College's statutory responsibilities under Section 42B of the Education Act 1997, as amended by the Technical and Further Education Act 2017, and supports the delivery of the College's Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance (CEIAG) programme. It reflects the Department for Education statutory guidance *Careers Guidance and Access for Education and Training Providers* (updated June 2026).

St Wilfrid's RC College is committed to ensuring that all students have access to high-quality, impartial information about the full range of education, training and employment pathways available to them, enabling them to make informed decisions at key transition points throughout their education.

The College is committed to ensuring meaningful encounters with providers of technical education qualifications, apprenticeships and training opportunities as part of Gatsby Benchmark 7 and the wider careers programme.

Student entitlement

Students in Years 8–13 are entitled to:

- Find out about technical education qualifications and apprenticeship opportunities as part of a careers programme that provides information on the full range of education and training options available at each transition point.
- Hear from a range of local and national providers about the opportunities they offer, including technical education qualifications and apprenticeships.
- Understand how to make applications for the full range of academic, technical and vocational courses available to them.

Students are entitled to receive meaningful encounters with approved providers of technical education qualifications, apprenticeships and training opportunities as part of a progressive careers programme from Years 8–13.

The College is committed to ensuring that all students, regardless of background, ability or circumstance, have equitable access to provider encounters and careers-related opportunities. Particular consideration is given to students with SEND, disadvantaged students and those at risk of becoming NEET.

Provider Access Legislation Requirements

The updated Provider Access Legislation (PAL), which came into force in January 2023, requires schools to provide a minimum of six encounters for all students during Years 8–13.

These include:

First Key Phase (Years 8–9)

Two encounters that are mandatory for all students to attend.

Second Key Phase (Years 10–11)

Two encounters that are mandatory for all students to attend.

Third Key Phase (Years 12–13)

Two encounters that are mandatory for the College to provide but optional for students to attend.

These encounters form part of the College's commitment to Gatsby Benchmark 7 and the wider careers programme.

The College meets these requirements through a planned programme of careers education and provider encounters. Details can be found within the published Careers Programme and Careers Overview available on the College website.

Leadership and Management of Provider Access

Careers Leader - **Mrs K Forster – Head of Sixth Form and Careers Leader**

Mrs Forster has operational responsibility for coordinating provider encounters and ensuring compliance with the Provider Access Legislation.

Responsibilities include:

- Coordinating provider encounters across Years 8–13.
- Liaising with employers, colleges, universities, apprenticeship providers and training organisations.
- Ensuring encounters support the wider CEIAG programme.
- Monitoring Gatsby Benchmark achievement.
- Maintaining records of provider engagement.
- Reporting to governors.

Contact Details Email: kforster@st-wilfrids.org Telephone: 0191 456 9121

Strategic Oversight - **Mr Paul Given – Senior Assistant Headteacher for Personal Development**

Mr Given provides strategic oversight of careers education and provider access across the College, ensuring alignment with:

- The CEIAG programme.
- The College's Personal Development strategy.
- Gatsby Benchmarks.
- Department for Education statutory guidance.
- Provider Access Legislation requirements.

Responsibilities include:

- Quality assurance of provider encounters.
- Monitoring compliance with statutory requirements.
- Evaluating the impact of provider access arrangements.
- Supporting continuous improvement of careers provision across the College.

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Opportunities for Access

A range of provider encounters are integrated into the College's careers programme each year.

These may include:

- Assemblies.
- Careers fairs.
- Apprenticeship events.
- Technical education presentations.
- Employer encounters.
- Workshops.
- Small-group discussions.
- Curriculum-linked activities.
- Personal Development sessions.
- Parent information evenings.
- Careers and progression events.

Opportunities are planned throughout Years 8–13 and are reviewed annually as part of the College's careers programme.

Providers wishing to participate should contact the Careers Leader at the earliest opportunity to discuss availability and suitability.

All provider encounters are quality assured by the College and must comply with the school's safeguarding, visitor and health and safety procedures. Provider encounters should be impartial, meaningful and appropriate to the age and needs of students.

Premises and Facilities

The College will make suitable rooms and facilities available to support provider encounters.

Facilities may include:

- Presentation spaces.
- Classrooms.
- Assembly venues.
- IT and audio-visual equipment.
- Interactive learning spaces where appropriate.

Specific arrangements will be discussed and agreed in advance of each visit.

Providers will be supported by an appropriate member of staff throughout their visit.

Literature and Resources

Providers are welcome to supply literature, prospectuses and digital resources relating to:

- Technical education qualifications.
- Apprenticeships.
- Traineeships and supported internships where appropriate.
- Vocational pathways.
- Training opportunities.

Materials will be reviewed and distributed in accordance with the College's careers programme and safeguarding procedures.

Relevant materials may also be made available through careers displays, tutor programmes and the College website.

Safeguarding

All providers visiting the College are expected to comply with the school's safeguarding and visitor procedures.

Information relating to safeguarding expectations can be found within the College's Safeguarding Policy published on the College website.

The College reserves the right to decline access where provision is not considered suitable, impartial or aligned with the educational needs of students.

Monitoring and Review

The effectiveness of Provider Access arrangements is monitored and reviewed through:

- Careers programme reviews.
- Student feedback and pupil voice.
- Provider feedback.
- Gatsby Benchmark reviews.
- Compass+ evaluations where appropriate.
- Destination data.
- Governor reporting processes.

The College reviews its Provider Access arrangements annually to ensure continuing compliance with statutory requirements and to maximise opportunities for students to explore the full range of progression pathways available to them.