



PROVIDER ACCESS POLICY STATEMENT

This Policy Statement includes: The Department of Education, July 2021: “Baker Clause” and the Provider Access Legislation, January 2023

Date updated: June 2025

Rationale

High quality careers education and guidance in school 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

St Edmund Arrowsmith 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. St Edmund Arrowsmith 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.

St Edmund Arrowsmith 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

St Edmund Arrowsmith 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

St Edmund Arrowsmith fully supports the statutory requirement for students to have direct access to other providers of further education training, technical training and apprenticeships. The school 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 in assemblies, careers lessons and in addition to providers attending careers events at school.

Development

This policy has been developed and is reviewed annually by the Careers Leader (Mrs R Paul) and Line Manager (Mr D Cullen) 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, 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. St Edmund Arrowsmith is committed to encouraging all students to make decisions about their future based on impartial information.

Requests for Access

Requests for access should be directed to Mrs R Paul, Head of Personal Development Curriculum, may be contacted by telephone or email, enquiries@arrowsmith.wigan.sch.uk, Tel **01942 728651**.

All providers' requests for access will be considered on a case-by-case basis, however access may not be granted if: the timing is inappropriate; access would cause disruption to the school calendar/planned student learning or, if the school believes that it would not be in the best interest of students.

Grounds for granting requests for access

Access will be given for providers to attend during school assemblies, timetabled Careers lessons, and Careers events that St Edmund Arrowsmith arrange on an annual basis. Students may also travel to visit other providers as part of the trips which are organised to Leeds University, Manchester University, Edge Hill University, St John Rigby College and Wigan and Leigh College.

Details of premises or facilities to be provided to a person who is given access

St Edmund Arrowsmith will provide an appropriate room or assembly hall to be agreed. All rooms have computers, projectors and screens provided. Computer rooms can also be arranged. The Careers Leader or Careers Adviser will organise this, working closely with the provider to ensure the facilities are appropriate to the audience. Appropriate safeguarding checks will be carried out. Providers will be met and supervised by a member of the Careers Team who will facilitate.

Live/Virtual Encounters

St Edmund Arrowsmith facilitate live online encounters with providers through our Breakfast with Industry sessions, and these are 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 the Careers Fair and Guidance Evening events to meet the providers.

Management


The Careers Lead is supported by one Admin Support Assistant who coordinates all provider requests.

Monitoring Review and Evaluation

The Policy is monitored and evaluated annually via the Head of Personal Development.

Policy Coordinator: Mrs R Paul

Policy Reviewed: March 2023
June 2025

Approved at Full Governing Body Meeting on: QEC Meeting on	28 March 2023 17 June 2025
Signed:	 Chair of Governors S Westhead
Policy Review Date:	June 2026

APPENDIX

Providers who have been invited into St Edmund Arrowsmith to date include:

- Alliance Learning
- The Army
- Bolton College
- Carmel College
- Edge Hill University
- GMP
- Groundwork
- LIPA
- North West Training Group
- St Helen's College
- St John Rigby College
- Warrington Vale Royal
- West Lancs College
- Wigan Athletic
- Wigan & Leigh College & Apprenticeship Team
- Wigan Warriors
- Winstanley College

Destinations of previous pupils from St Edmund Arrowsmith include:

- Access Creative College, Manchester
- Bolton College
- Carmel College
- Cowley College
- Eccles College
- LIPA
- LLS
- Pendleton College
- Priestley College
- Runshaw College
- St Helen's College
- St John Rigby College
- The Music Project
- Warrington Vale Royal College
- Wigan & Leigh College
- Wigan Warriors
- Winstanley College



THE BAKER CLAUSE

The Baker Clause is an important part of our schools Careers Education and Guidance programme, where the needs of every individual student is addressed.

At St Edmund Arrowsmith, all students understand the full range of education and training options available to them so that they can be set on the path that will secure the best outcome, enabling them to progress in education and work and equip them to be the highly skilled people employers need.

The Gatsby Benchmarks relate to encounters and exposing students to the full range of pathways available to them when they leave school.

All students at St Edmund Arrowsmith have access to comprehensive, unbiased information about all post 16 choices, so that they can be supported to make the best decisions. This is achieved through assemblies, the annual Careers Fair, Guidance Evenings, careers lessons and other events in which the school participate. There are also other opportunities by organisations at lunch times, visits, open evenings and careers events outside of school.

By complying with the Baker Clause and fully meeting the expectations set out in the Eight Gatsby Benchmarks, our students are supported in finding their own pathway through the opportunity to explore colleges, sixth forms, UTC'S, training providers and institutes of technology and local employers, which for many students will be an apprenticeship or another form of training route.

Date updated: June 2025