

St Nicholas School

Providers Access Policy Statement



St. Nicholas School Canterbury

Policy Created	November 2025
Governing Body Committee	Safeguarding Governors
ELT responsibility	Simon Bounds
Date Reviewed by Governing Body	14/10/2025
Date of Next Review	November 2027

ST. NICHOLAS SCHOOL
Providers Access Policy Statement

Introduction

This policy statement sets out the school's arrangements for managing the access of providers to pupils 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 and is in line with the statutory updates of January 1 2023.

St Nicholas School is very pro-active in ensuring that other providers can access students and their parents to ensure they can publicise and explain their offer. Examples of this are clearly set out against the relevant Gatsby benchmarks in the Careers Programme, Careers Strategy and Careers Action Plan.

Pupil entitlement

All pupils in years 8-13 are entitled:

- to find out about technical education qualifications and apprenticeships opportunities, as part of a careers programme which provides information on the full range of education and training options available at each transition point;
- to hear from a range of local providers about the opportunities they offer, including technical education and apprenticeships, through online events and face to face meetings when safe. These will comprise careers options events, workshops, parent twilight sessions, programme collaboration and taster events;
- to understand how to research and make applications for the full range of academic and technical courses, for example by using the Kent Choices portal run by KCC and the Cascaid Xello careers and destinations tool.

Management of provider access requests

Procedure:

All providers with an offer appropriate to our students are regularly invited into the school to meet our students and in some cases (for example Craftworks College) co-deliver programmes of study. Any provider wishing to request access can also contact Simon Bounds, Careers Lead, s.bounds@stns.org.uk.

Opportunities for access

A number of events, integrated into the school careers programme, will offer providers an opportunity to come into school to speak to pupils and their parents/carers. These will take place on a site which is accessible to all the secondary and post 16 sites upon which our students are based, including both satellite sites.

All the appropriate local post 16 providers are contacted individually by the careers lead annually to present their offer as part of the vocational pathways lessons. Classes are no more than 12 pupils so all have an opportunity to engage fully in Q & A with the providers.

For Oak pathway pupils in Key Stage 4 a whole day is timetabled each week for vocational pathways activities and all appropriate providers are invited to deliver information about their programme using all the facilities available. The following providers of vocational programmes are invited to present their programme to pupils in this way:

Beacon Plus
Bemix
Brogdale Craftworks
Canterbury Academy 6th form
East Kent College
Far Academy
Grow 19
KITE College
KT&A Apprenticeships
Liberty College

Lily's Social Cafe
Runway Training
Supajam
Woodpecker Court

The school facilitates live online encounters with providers as well as taking pupils for taster and transition activities. All the providers above are invited to a post 16 pathways fair during careers week every year in partnership with the Concordia Learning Alliance.

Premises and facilities

The school will make the main halls, classrooms or meeting spaces available for discussions between the provider and pupils, as appropriate to the activity. The school will also make available AV and other specialist equipment to support provider presentations. This will be discussed and agreed in advance of the visit with the appropriate Lead Teacher or the Careers Lead. Students will be fully supported by teachers and learning support assistants so they gain the maximum benefit from any interaction with other providers and prospective employers.

Providers are welcome to leave a copy of their prospectus or other relevant course literature with the Careers Lead. This will be made available to pupils and families as appropriate and be freely available in the careers resource room.

Complaints

In the first instance a provider can raise a complaint about being denied access, or given poor facilities, to the Careers Lead. If the issue is not resolved then the provider should follow the complaints procedure for the whole school as published on our website.

This policy will be monitored on a yearly basis by the Careers Lead to keep up to date with any adjustments to statutory legislation or curriculum; any changes will go via the Governing Body when necessary.

EQUALITY, SAFEGUARDING AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES STATEMENT

St Nicholas School, in all policies and procedures, will promote equality of opportunity for students and staff from all social, cultural and economic backgrounds and ensure freedom from discrimination on the basis of membership of any group, including gender, sexual orientation, family circumstances, ethnic or national origin, disability (physical or mental), religious or political beliefs.

St Nicholas School aims to:

- ❑ Provide equal opportunity for all
- ❑ To foster good relations, and create effective partnership with all sections of the community
- ❑ To take no action which discriminates unlawfully in service delivery, commissioning and employment
- ❑ To provide an environment free from fear and discrimination, where diversity, respect and dignity are valued.

All aspects of Safeguarding will be embedded into the life of the school and be adhered to and be the

responsibility of all staff.

Simon Bounds

Careers Lead

Written March 2025

Next review March 2026