



Careers Provider Access Statement

Key Document Details:

School Name: The Ridgeway School

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Owner A Hill

Approved by The Headteacher

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Provider Access Statement

Ownership: The Ridgeway School and 6th From College

Date updated: September 2026

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

The Ridgeway School and 6th From College 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. The Ridgeway School and 6th From College 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.

The Ridgeway School and 6th From College 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 Ridgeway School and 6th From College 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

The Ridgeway School and 6th From College 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 put on at least six encounters with providers of approved technical education qualifications or apprenticeships. This will be done in assemblies in National Apprenticeship Week and National Careers Week, in addition to providers attending careers events at school or within the local community. Providers will also be welcomed into school to meet with students.

Development

This policy has been developed and is reviewed annually by the Careers Leader and Line Manager of careers the Deputy Headteacher 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, Safeguarding, 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. **The Ridgeway School and 6th Form College** is committed to encouraging all students to make decisions about their future based on impartial information. Students can additionally gain advice from an independent careers adviser resourced by the school but not employed by the school.

Requests for access

Requests for access should be directed to *Alex Hill Deputy Headteacher*, Careers Leader. They can be contacted by telephone on 01793 846100 or via email at ahill@ridgewayschool.co.uk

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 are being arranged. Students may also travel to visit another provider as part of the trip to be organised in partnership eg Visits to Swindon College and Cirencester College. The school will additionally seek for students to visit Universities where possible.

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

The Ridgeway School and 6th Form College 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, R6 team or Leadership Team who will facilitate.

Live/Virtual encounters

The Ridgeway School and 6th Form College 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 his/her senior management line manager.

Complaints Procedure

Any complaints about this policy should be raised to Alex Hill Deputy Headteacher

Alex Hill will raise the complaint to the Headteacher.

Monitoring review and evaluation

The Policy is monitored and evaluated annually via the School Leadership Team.

Policy Coordinator: Alex Hill

Policy Reviewed: September 2027

Appendix

Providers who have been invited into *The Ridgeway School* and 6th Form College to date include:

Swindon College

Cirencester College

Lackham Agricultural College

Destinations of previous pupils from the Ridgeway School and 6th Form college include:

Swindon College

Cirencester College

Lackham Agricultural College

Wiltshire College

Hartbury College

Pates Grammar 6th Form School

Universities including Russell Group Universities some of which include:

Oxford

Cambridge

Bath

Cardiff

Swansea

Reading

Bristol

University West of England

Exeter

Birmingham

Oxford Brookes

Liverpool

Manchester

Sheffield

Nottingham

Leeds

Bournemouth

Southampton