



Provider Access Legislation Policy

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1. Introduction

Willow Bank School 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 school 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.

Willow Bank 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).

The 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).

2. Pupil entitlement

Willow Bank School 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 events at school including transition events, KS4 exam preparation events, visiting establishments during Preparation for Adulthood lessons, visits from providers and careers fairs.

Careers Connect will also hold interviews with KS4 pupils to give unbiased information, advice and guidance based on their career aspirations. KS3 pupils will have the opportunity to engage in workshops or assemblies with the Careers advisor.

Amazing Apprenticeships will be working with Willow Bank School in 2024.

Willow Bank School will provide at least four encounters with approved providers of apprenticeships and technical education for all their students:

- For pupils of compulsory school age these encounters are mandatory and there will be a minimum of two encounters for pupils during the 'first key phase' (year 8 to 9)
- Two encounters for pupils during the 'second key phase' (year 10 to 11) that are mandatory for all pupils to attend.

- Pupils will expect to complete the final two of the of the legislated six encounter when the attend the 'third key phase', however they may be further opportunities while at Willow Bank School.

These provider encounters will be scheduled during the main school hours and the provider will be given a reasonable amount of time to, as a minimum:

- share information about both the provider and the approved technical education qualification and apprenticeships that the provider offers
- explain what career routes those options could lead to
- provide insights into what it might be like to learn or train with that provider
- (including the opportunity to meet staff and pupils from the provider) and answer questions from pupils.

3. Meaningful provider encounters

One encounter is defined as one meeting/session between pupils and one provider. We are committed to providing meaningful encounters to all pupils using the [Making it meaningful checklist](#).

Meaningful online engagement is also an option, and we are open to providers that are able to provide live online engagement with our pupils.

Providers who have been invited to date include:

- St. Helens College
- Carmel College
- Warrington & Vale Royal College
- The Growth Co.

Destinations of our pupils

Previous pupils have moved to range of providers in the local area after school:

- St Helens College
- Cowley International Sixth Form College
- Warrington & Vale Royal College

4. Management of provider access requests

The Careers Leader coordinates all provider requests and is responsible to his/her senior management line manager.

Providers can contact: willowbank@sthelens.org.uk

5. Opportunities for access

The school offers the six provider encounters required by law and a number of additional events, integrated into the school careers programme.

We will offer providers an opportunity to come into school to speak to pupils or their parents or carers.

Please speak to our Careers Leader to identify the most suitable opportunity for you.

6. Premises and facilities

The school will make the main hall, group rooms or cube rooms 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 all be discussed and agreed in advance of the visit with the Careers Leader or a member of their team.

Meaningful online engagement is also an option, and we are open to providers that are able to provide live online engagement with our pupils.

Providers are welcome to leave a copy of their prospectus or other relevant course literature with reception, and this will be shared with pupils via the school library area.

Providers Open Evenings will also be signposted on the school website.

7. Complaints

Any complaints with regards to provider access can be raised following the school complaints procedure or directly with The Careers & Enterprise Company via provideraccess@careersandenterprise.co.uk