



Provider Access Policy

Introduction

This policy statement sets out the school's arrangements for managing the access of providers to 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.

Pupil entitlement

All pupils in years 8 to 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 options events, assemblies and group discussions and taster events;
- to understand how to make applications for the full range of academic and technical courses.

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) and two encounters for pupils during the 'second key phase' (year 10 to 11). For pupils in the 'third key phase' (year 12 to 13), particularly those that have not yet decided on their next steps, there are two more provider encounters available during this period, which are optional for pupils to attend.

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)
- answer questions from pupils.

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. Often following an encounter, follow up work or information will be posted on Google Classroom and the termly careers newsletters will also revisit some of the LMI highlighted in each encounter to ensure a triangulated approach between ourselves, the provider and home.

Previous providers

To give you an idea of the providers who have worked with our pupils, see the below table

Year 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Reaseheath - Cheshire FE college specialising in animal care -● University of Liverpool School of Maths - apprenticeships in STEM
Year 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Key training - apprenticeship provider
Year 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Army - apprenticeships in the armed forces● BeMore - apprenticeship support from Liverpool City Region● Unilever workshop - school leaver programme
Year 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● RAF - apprenticeships in the armed forces -● Wirral Engineering college - FE opportunities assembly● Career connect impartial and objective, 1x1 interviews discussing local apprenticeship / FE opportunities on a local level personalised to individual student● University of Law chester - careers and FE in law assembly
Year 12/ 13	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Weekly opportunities list with overview of local and national FE / apprenticeship opportunities● 1x1 career connect interview - impartial and objective overview of FE / apprenticeship options● University of Law Chester assembly / workshop● National HE and UCAS fair● Royal Navy FE options - recent Alumni discussion● Unilever● Apprenticeships

Management of provider access requests

Procedure

A provider wishing to request access should contact Kelly Murphy at k.murphy@birkhs.gdst.net

Opportunities for access

The school offers the six provider encounters required by law (**marked in bold text**) and a number of additional events, integrated into the school careers programme.

Premises and facilities

The school will make the main hall, classrooms or private meeting 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 at the Careers Resource Centre, which is managed by the school librarian. The Resource Centre is available to all pupils at lunch and break times.

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