



Provider Access Policy

Policy title:	Provider Access Policy
Function:	This policy statement aims to set out our school's arrangements for managing the access of education and training providers to students for the purpose of giving them information about their offer.
Status:	Approved
Statutory guidance:	Section 42B of the Education Act 1997 The Skills and Post-16 Act 2022 Education (Careers Guidance in Schools) Act 2022 https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2022/13/contents Guidance from the Department for Education (DfE) on careers guidance and access for education and training providers 2023
Audience:	Students, Parents, Staff, Trustees, General public
Ownership:	Trust Board, Headteacher, Deputy Headteacher (PDBA), Assistant Headteacher (Personal Development)
Last reviewed:	November 2024
Reviewed by:	Headteacher
Next review:	November 2025

Introduction

This policy statement sets out the school's arrangements for managing the access of providers to students 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, the Skills and Post-16 Education Act 2022 and the Education (Careers Guidance in Schools) Act 2022.

Student entitlement

Schools must provide at least six encounters with approved providers of apprenticeships and technical education for all their students:

- Two encounters for pupils during the 'first key phase' (year 8 or 9) that are mandatory for all pupils to attend
- Two encounters for pupils during the 'second key phase' (year 10 or 11) that are mandatory for all pupils to attend
- Two encounters for pupils during the 'third key phase' (year 12 or 13) that are mandatory for the school to put on but optional for pupils to attend.

This is a key mechanism to further help learners understand and take-up, not just apprenticeships, but wider technical education options such as T-Levels and Higher Technical Qualifications. These opportunities will be promoted to students alongside alternative routes such as Higher Education and entering the world of work.

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.

Previous providers

In previous terms/years we have invited the following providers from the local area to speak to our pupils:

- LMU (provider of degree apprenticeships)
- City of Liverpool College
- The Apprenticeship Hub

Destinations of our pupils

Last year our year 11 pupils moved to range of providers in the local area after school:

- 85% are studying A-Levels at the Blue Coat School
- 7 students are studying A-Levels at a different school
- 15 students are studying A-Levels at a sixth form college
- 4 students have moved to a specialist college or University school.

Last year our year 13 pupils moved to range of providers after school:

- 84% students went on to study at university in the UK
- 14 students gained a place at Oxford or Cambridge
- 4 students are studying abroad
- We supported several students in applying for sponsored degrees, apprenticeships and employment, including 3 students who are studying degree apprenticeships.

Management of provider access requests

Procedure

A provider wishing to request access should contact Miss. Nock – Assistant Headteacher.

Telephone: 0151 733 5060

Email: l.nock@bluecoatschool.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 students and/or their parents/carers throughout the academic year.

Please speak to Miss. Nock to identify the most suitable opportunity for you. The school policy on safeguarding sets out the school's approach to allowing providers into school as visitors to talk to our students.

Premises and facilities

The school will make larger venues and classrooms available for discussions between the provider and students, 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 Assistant Headteacher.

A provider, to whom access is given, must deliver an encounter that includes the following:

- Information about the provider and the approved technical education qualifications or apprenticeships that the provider offers
- Information about the careers to which those technical education qualifications or apprenticeships might lead
- A description of what learning or training with the provider is like
- Responses to questions from the pupils about the provider or approved technical education qualifications and apprenticeships.

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 the Careers Lead, who will make this accessible to students.

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.

23/24 academic year:

- Two encounters for pupils during the 'first key phase' (year 8 or 9) that are mandatory for all pupils to attend
- Two encounters for pupils during the 'second key phase' (year 10 or 11) that are mandatory for all pupils to attend
- Two encounters for pupils during the 'third key phase' (year 12 or 13) that are mandatory for the school to put on but optional for pupils to attend.

Year group	Encounter
7	J J Smith – Introduction to apprenticeships talk – 21/11/23 Unilever – 8/3/24 Jaguar Landrover – 8/3/24
8	J J Smith – Introduction to apprenticeships talk – 21/11/23 Unilever – 8/3/24 DWF solicitors – 8/3/24 Southport and Ormskirk NHS Trust – 8/3/24
9	J J Smith – Introduction to apprenticeships talk – 22/11/23 Unilever – 8/3/24 Jaguar Landrover – 8/3/24
10	J J Smith – Introduction to apprenticeships talk – 22/11/23 Unilever – 8/3/24 Cronton/Riverside (technical qualifications) – 8/3/24 Bachem – 8/3/24
11	Unilever – 8/3/24 BDO LLP – 8/3/24 Southport and Ormskirk NHS Trust – 8/3/24
12	HMRC – apprenticeships in government – 4/12/23 Manchester Metropolitan University – degree apprenticeships – 18/3/24
13	HMRC – apprenticeships in government – 9/10/23

So far in the 24/25 academic year:

Year group	Encounter
7	
8	
9	
10	
11	Casey - degree apprenticeships in the construction industry – 15/11/24
12	LJMU – degree apprenticeships – 4/11/24 Casey - degree apprenticeships in the construction industry – 15/11/24
13	