

Provider Access Policy

- St. Aidan's CE High School

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1. Aims

This policy statement sets out the arrangements for managing the access of education and training providers to students for the purpose of giving them information about the provider's education or training offer. It sets out:

- Procedural requirements about requests for access
- The grounds for granting or refusing requests
- Details of premises or facilities available to a person who is given access
- The times access can be given
- How we are working to ensure that every pupil, whatever their ambitions, has at least 6 opportunities to meet providers of technical education or apprenticeships during years 8 to 13.

1.1. Rationale

High quality careers education and guidance in school 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.

1.2. Commitment

St. Aidan's Church of England High 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. St. Aidan's Church of England High 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.

St. Aidan's Church of England High School 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).

2. Statutory requirements

Schools are required to ensure that there is an opportunity for a range of education and training providers to access students in years 7 to 13 for the purposes of informing them about approved technical education, qualifications or apprenticeships. This complies with a school's legal obligations under Section 42B of the Education Act 1997.

2.1. Provider access legislation

St. Aidan's Church of England High School's policy for access to other education and training providers have 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)

We are committed to meeting the requirements of Provider Access Legislation (PAL), introduced in January 2018, which specifies that schools must provide at least six encounters with providers of technical education or apprenticeships for all their students during school years 8-13. We will ensure that we provide:

- Two encounters that are mandatory for all pupils to attend that take place any time during year 8 or between 1 September and 28 February during year 9
- Two encounters that are mandatory for all pupils to attend that take place any time during year 10 or between 1 September and 28 February during year 11
- Two encounters that are mandatory for the school to put on, but optional for pupils to attend, to take place any time during year 12 or between 1 September and 28 February during year 13

2.2. Meeting the requirements of the PAL:

Our PAL policy outlines how requests for access are managed, our grounds for granting requests and gives details on the facilities available. We collaborate with each provider to ensure they have the resources and support they need. Most talks are in person, but we are happy to facilitate virtual meetings. We are fortunate to be supported by a wide range of further, higher, and technical institutions. Encounters planned for this academic year include talks from Harrogate College, Leeds City College, York College, Lancaster University and

Leeds Beckett University. We have a comprehensive database of education providers and employers who support our careers programme. We work closely with NYBEP, apprenticeship training providers and the York and North Yorkshire Careers Hub to develop opportunities to increase awareness of all pathways.

2.3. Embedding PAL into our careers programme

In Years 8-13 all students will have at least one talk from a provider of technical education and/or apprenticeships. These encounters will be for a reasonable period of time and will take place during the school day. We ask each provider to inform students about:

- the provider
- the approved technical education qualifications or apprenticeships that the provider offers
- the careers those technical education qualifications or apprenticeships might lead to
- what learning or training with the provider is like

We will also ask providers to make themselves available to answer questions from pupils.

2.4. PAL destinations

We are immensely proud of the destinations our pupils have gone on to. These include:

- Higher Education at a wide range of universities such as Leeds Beckett University, York St John and Northumbria who offer technical pathways.
- Further Education at specialist colleges such as Askham Bryan, Leeds College of Building and Leeds Arts University.
- Vocational Courses at colleges including York, Harrogate, Askham Bryan and Leeds City colleges and a wide range of apprenticeships.
- Apprenticeships are secured across a range of industries. Recent examples include Azets, BAE Systems, BBC, Bishopton Vets, Dyson, FT Audio Visual, Morrisons, NHS, Nuffield Health and Fitness, Quantik, Rudding Park, Walker Singleton and West Yorkshire Police.

Full details on how to contact the careers department and how we collaborate with external providers can be found on our website.

This policy shows how our Trust complies with these requirements at St Aidan's CE High School.

3. Student entitlement

Every student, in every year group has an entitlement to receive a structured, sequenced, and comprehensive Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance (CEIAG) programme delivered by experienced and enthusiastic staff to help them develop careers readiness and the key skills needed for their chosen progression transition pathway at post 16 and post 18.

All students in Years 8 to 13 are entitled to:

- Find out about technical education qualifications and apprenticeship opportunities, as part of our careers programme which provides information on the full range of education and training options available at each transition point
- Hear from a range of local providers about the opportunities they offer, including technical education and apprenticeships
- Understand how to make applications for the full range of academic and technical courses

4. Management of provider access requests

4.1. Procedure

A provider wishing to request access should contact St Aidan's CE High School via Mrs Sally Richmond, Careers Leader, to discuss how appropriate and relevant their visit may be.

Telephone: 01423 818534

Email: careersstaff@staidans.co.uk

4.2. Opportunities for access

We are also committed to providing opportunities for students to access multiple encounters with representatives from industry so that they can develop skills, expand their networks and gain insights into the evolving job market. If you or your organisation can offer a talk on your sector of industry, or offer career enrichment opportunities for our students, please get in touch by emailing careersstaff@staidans.co.uk.

Examples of such events which are already integrated into our careers programme include:

- Cross-curricular careers activities within subject lessons
- Information evenings for students, parents and carers
- Lunchtime talks led by employers, training providers and alumni
- Off timetable events such as the Year 10 Careers Day
- Our annual careers evening

- Publicising events organised by providers such as further education, higher education and apprenticeship providers

4.3. Safeguarding

Our child protection policy outlines the school's procedure for checking the identity and suitability of visitors. Education and training providers will be expected to adhere to this policy.

4.4. Premises and facilities

The school will make the Constance Green Hall, the main hall, classrooms or private meeting rooms 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 Careers Leader or a member of their team.

Providers are welcome to leave a copy of their prospectus or other relevant course literature for the Careers Department via the main school reception, which will then be displayed and used within the careers department.

Access will be at the discretion of the school and will be judged on the nature of the provider, the appropriateness of the offering and the availability of the necessary space at a suitable time. Although access may be declined for a particular reason, it may be possible to agree an alternative arrangement.

Parental involvement is encouraged, and parents may be invited to attend the events to meet the providers.

5. Monitoring arrangements

The Trust's arrangements for managing the access of education and training providers to students at St Aidan's CE High School is monitored by the named Careers Leader at St. Aidan's. The policy is reviewed and evaluated annually via the senior leadership team. Any complaints about this policy should be raised to the Headteacher.

Associated documents

- Child Protection Policy
- Careers Department policy for CEIAG
- Curriculum Policy