

# Provider Access Policy

**History of document: To be reviewed annually and re-approved every three years, or sooner if deemed necessary.**

Version	Author	Date written	Approved	Comments
V1	C.Burt	02 Jul. 2018	27 Nov. 2018	
V2	L.Claringbold	08 Oct. 2021	07 Dec. 2021	
V3	J. Dukes	11 Jan. 2023	n/a	Updated to include Provider Access Legislation
V4	L.Claringbold	04 Sep. 2023	n/a	Minor wording change for clarity
V5	J. Duke / L. Claringbold	05 Sep. 2024	17 Sep. 2024	

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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:

- Procedures in relation to requests for access
- The grounds for granting and refusing requests for access
- Details of premises or facilities to be provided to a person who is given access

### 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 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)

Introduced in Jan 2018, PAL 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 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

### **Meeting the requirements of the PAL:**

Our PAL policy outlines how requests for access are handled, our grounds for granting requests and gives details on the facilities available. We work with each provider to ensure they have the resources and support they need. The majority of our talks are in person, but we are very 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 ASK apprenticeships, Harrogate College, Leeds City College, York College, Askham Bryan College and Leeds Beckett University. We have a comprehensive database of education providers and employers who support our careers programme. We work closely with NYBEP, our local Careers Hub and ASK Apprenticeships to develop opportunities to increase awareness of all pathways.

### **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.

Each talk will include:

- 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

### **PAL Destinations**

We are very 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

Recent examples include Packaging with Unilever, Government Economic Service Degree Apprenticeship, KPMG, Food Technology at Nestlé, Hospitality at Grantley Hall, Digital Marketing with Marketing Adventures and Engineering with BAM and BAE.

Full details on how to contact the careers department and how we work with external providers 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

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
- Students in **Years 7-10** will follow a careers programme which is delivered by Form Tutors, Careers Staff and guest speakers through registration activities, assemblies and off-timetable events (as appropriate). All students will have access to face-to-face impartial guidance at individual point of need
- Students in **Years 11** will follow a careers programme which is delivered by Form Tutors, Careers Staff and guest speakers through registration activities, assemblies, and off-timetable events (as appropriate). All students will have access to individual, impartial guidance meeting to support transition to post-16 provision
- Students in **Year 12** will follow a careers programme focused on post-18 transition which is delivered by Careers Staff and guest speakers through tutorials, registration and WALK time activities and off-timetable events (as appropriate). All students will have access to face-to-face impartial guidance at individual point of need
- Students in **Year 12** will follow a careers programme focused on post-18 transition which is delivered by Senior Tutors, Careers Staff and guest speakers through tutorials, assemblies, and off-timetable events (as appropriate). All students will have access to face-to-face impartial guidance at individual point of need

- Students in **Year 13** will have access to impartial face-to-face guidance at individual point of need to support post-18 applications and careers management

**All students** will be supported to:

- Acquire a general knowledge of and insight into the world of work together with specific knowledge and understanding of careers and opportunities appropriate to their own interest, abilities and aspirations as they progress through the school
- Gain knowledge of career sectors, labour market information
- Develop self-awareness of their own skills and strengths and their current work and how these impact on current and prospective career ideas
- Recognise and value their own abilities and present them in the most positive way
- Gain an understanding of how career choices impact on their future economic wellbeing and how these fit into the demands of society at large
- Gain the career management skills to understand the importance of informed decision making and action planning in the short and long term
- Gain the career management skills to research and recognise suitable progression pathways and qualifications
- Prepare for smooth transition between different stages of their school and post school careers
- Attend regular in-school presentations (as appropriate) and the annual Careers evening to engage with external speakers/representatives from local, regional and national education institutions and businesses

#### 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, Assistant Careers Leader, to discuss how appropriate and relevant their visit may be.

Telephone: 01423 818534

Email: [careersstaff@staidans.co.uk](mailto:careersstaff@staidans.co.uk)

##### 4.2. Opportunities for access

A number of events, integrated into our careers programme, will offer providers an opportunity to come into school to speak to students and/or their parents/carers.

These include:

- Cross-curricular careers activities within subject lessons
- Information evenings for parents/carers on Post 16 and Post 18 Options.
- Lunchtime talks led by employers, training providers and alumni

- Off timetable events such as the Year 10 Careers Day
- An annual careers evening to which providers are invited to talk to students, and/or their parents/carers
- In addition, we publicise events organised by providers and where appropriate take students to these as follows:
  - Year 9, 10, 11 and 12 students visit FE colleges for College Pathway courses, bespoke visits, open days and taster days
  - Year 9, 10, 11 and 12 students are informed about apprenticeship events such as the annual Leeds Apprenticeship

In the St Aidan's Careers Department, we can provide links to provider websites/prospectuses on the Careers Department section of the St Aidan's website; hard copies can be requested as appropriate. We also provide students with factsheets and newsletters which include information on all providers as well as contact details.

The school employs qualified Career Advisers who offer impartial careers information, advice and guidance to help ensure students can make informed career decisions about their next steps. They support students with applications to other providers and where appropriate liaise with providers to ensure a smooth and supported transition to further education and apprenticeships. A student can request an appointment at any time by emailing: [careersstaff@staidans.co.uk](mailto:careersstaff@staidans.co.uk), parents and guardians are welcome to attend.

#### 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.

#### 6. Associated policies

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