

Provider Access Policy

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1.0 Introduction

This policy statement sets out Ashcroft School arrangements for managing the access of providers to students at the school for the purposes of giving them information about further education or training. This complies with the school's legal obligations under Section 42B of the Education Act 1997.

Provider Access Legislation

The provider access legislation is guidance that came into force in January 2023. It 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.

Expectations

We expect that all visitors follow the schools safeguarding processes and present information that contributes to the development of our learners' knowledge and understanding. Visitors must not present any information that may conflict and disregard our duty to promote tolerance of and respect for people of all faiths (or those of no faith), races, genders, ages, disability, and sexual orientations (and other groups with protected characteristics).

2.0 Student Entitlement

The updated provider access legislation (PAL) specifies that schools must provide at least six encounters 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.

In the context of the provider access legislation, a provider is an organisation that offers approved technical education qualifications or their representative, for example an FE college or training provider.

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.

3.0 Management of provider access requests

A provider wishing to request access should contact:

Miss Francine Ross, Careers Lead

Telephone: 0161 283 4832

Email: via francine.ross@togethertrust.org.uk

4.0 Opportunities for access

A range of events will be integrated into the school's careers programme and the school will offer providers an opportunity to offer impartial advice to students and/or their parents:

Please speak to Careers Lead Francine Ross

Francine.ross@togethertrust.co.uk

or Assistant Headteacher Richard Stevens

Richard.stevens@togethertrust.org.uk to identify the most suitable

opportunity for you. The school policy on safeguarding sets out Ashcroft's approach to allowing visitors into school.

5.0 Premises and Facilities

The school will make 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 specialist equipment to support provider presentations. This will be discussed and agreed in advance of the visit with the Careers Lead (Francine Ross) or a member of the SLT team.

Once we have approved a provider, we will work with them to identify the best method for providing access to our pupils. This will include support from education, support, and therapy staff.

Providers are welcome to leave a copy of their prospectus or other relevant course literature to be displayed in the designated Careers base. The Careers base is accessible to all students at agreed periods during the educational day.