

Provider Access Policy Statement

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Applies to (Mark as appropriate)			
Staff	Pupils / Students / Adult Learners	Parents / Carers / Guardians	Contractors
✓	✓	✓	✓
Volunteers	Students on placement	Trustees / LGC / Members	Visitors
✓	✓	✓	✓
Agency Staff	Other	a	a
✓	✓		

Published Locations				
Trust Website	Academy Website	Aldridge Intranet	Student/Parent planners	On-request
	✓	✓		

Consultation (Complete as appropriate in line with master policy document)

With	Reason for Consultation	Final Consultation Date	Version No

Version History (please note below if a policy has been replaced)

Version	Reviewer	Revision Date	Nature of Change	Adopted/ Approved by	Approval Date
VI		January 23	New Policy with legislation changes Jan 2023	Chair BOT	April 2023
VI		No revision	Board of Trustees Approval	BOT	July 2023
VI	A Silver / C Duffin	Jan 24	Review interval amended to 2 years and review date extended to Feb 25	NA	NA
V2	S Carroll	Dec 24	Review, no changes made		
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1. Aims

This policy statement aims to set out our academy's arrangements for managing the access of education and training providers to students for the purpose of giving them information about their 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

2. Rationale

High quality careers education and guidance in school or college 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

3. Commitment

Darwen Vale 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. Darwen Vale 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.

Darwen Vale 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).

4. Statutory requirements

Academies are required to ensure that there is an opportunity for a range of education and training providers to access students in years 8 to 13 for the purposes of informing them about approved technical education, qualifications or apprenticeships.

Academies must provide a minimum of 6 encounters with technical education or training providers to all pupils in years 8 to 13 (see more detail in section 2.1 below).

Academies must also have a policy statement that outlines the circumstances in which education and training providers will be given access to these students.

This is outlined in section 42B of the [Education Act 1997](#), the [Skills and Post-16 Act 2022](#) and on page 43 of guidance from the Department for Education (DfE) on [careers guidance and access for education and training providers](#).

This policy shows how our academy complies with these requirements.

2.1 The 6 encounters academies must offer to all pupils in years 8 to 13

Academies must offer:

- 2 encounters for pupils during the 'first key phase' (year 8 or 9)

- All pupils must attend
- Encounters can take place any time during year 8, and between 1 September and 28 February during year 9
- 2 encounters for pupils during the 'second key phase' (year 10 or 11)
 - All pupils must attend
 - Encounters can take place any time during year 10, and between 1 September and 28 February during year 11
- 2 encounters for pupils during the 'third key phase' (year 12 or 13)
 - Pupils can choose to attend
 - Encounters can take place any time during year 12, and between 1 September and 28 February during year 13

These encounters must happen for a reasonable period of time during the standard school day. Academies can continue to provide complementary experiences but encounters outside of school hours won't count towards these requirements.

Academies must ask each provider to provide the following information as a minimum:

- Information about the provider and the approved qualifications or apprenticeships they offer
- Information about what careers those qualifications and apprenticeships can lead to
- What learning or training with the provider is like
- Answers to any questions from pupils

Darwen Vale will comply with this requirement by providing interactions with relevant providers during dedicated assembly sessions for Year 8 – 11 students. In addition to this, Darwen Vale hosts careers fairs during the school day where providers are invited into school and students interact with exhibitors.

2.2 Meaningful provider encounters

Our academy is committed to providing meaningful encounters to all pupils.

One encounter is defined as one meeting/session between pupils and on provider.

Meaningful live online engagement is also an option at our academy.

5. Student entitlement

All students in years 8 to 11 at Darwen Vale 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, e.g. through activities and events such as options events, assemblies and taster events

Understand how to make applications for the full range of academic and technical courses

6. Management of provider access requests

4.1 Procedure

A provider wishing to request access should contact Neil Miele, Careers Leader.

Telephone: 01254 223 000

Email: nmiele@darwenvale.com

4.2 Opportunities for access

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

	autumn term	spring term	summer term
Year 8	Assembly from external provider and tutor group opportunities with Local Labour Market Info and Post 16 pathway activities.	DVHS Careers Fair. Speed network event of small group interaction with local providers and employers.	Further Tutor group activities.
Year 9	Assembly from external provider and tutor group opportunities with Local Labour Market Info and Post 16 pathway activities.	DVHS Careers Fair. Key Stage 4 options event. University visits.	No encounters – encounters must have taken place by 28 February
Year 10	Assembly from external provider and tutor group opportunities with Local Labour Market Info and Post 16 pathway activities. LEA Careers Fair. The Access Project.	Assembly from external provider and tutor group opportunities with Local Labour Market Info and Post 16 pathway activities. LEA Careers Fair. The Access Project.	Work experience. Educational/ Technical/vocational tasters at local college/s, training providers. University visits. The Access Project
Year 11	Assembly from external provider and tutor group opportunities with Local Labour Market Info and Post 16 pathway activities. Post-16 provider open evenings. The Access Project	Mock Interviews. Post-16 interviews. Apprenticeships – support with applications. DVHS Careers Fair. The Access Project.	No encounters – encounters must have taken place by 28 February Confirmation of post-16 education and training destinations for all pupils

Please speak to our Careers Leader to identify the most suitable opportunity for you.

These events will run in line with any measures related to public health incidents, including COVID-19.

Live/Virtual encounters

Darwen Vale will consider live online encounters with providers where requested, and these may be broadcast into classrooms or the school assembly hall. Technology checks in advance will be required to ensure compatibility of systems.

Parents and Carers

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

4.3 Granting and refusing access

Any provider who wishes to request access to the Academy should contact Neil Miele (careers lead) via e-mail: nmiele@darwenvale.com or telephone: 01254 223 000

Access will be granted for a scheduled event such as but not limited to assemblies, careers fairs, mock interviews, careers talks and careers guidance.

Access may be refused if a pre-arranged meeting has not been confirmed.

4.4 Safeguarding

Our safeguarding and child protection policy outlines the academies' procedure for checking the identity and suitability of visitors. Provider representatives will always be treated as visitors and will be signed in, wear a badge and accompanied at all times.

If not, the academy must ensure that arrangements are in place for all of the required checks to be done and the details of the representatives to be entered onto the Single Central Record

Education and training providers will be expected to adhere to this policy.

4.5 Premises and facilities

The Academy has a mix of large spaces and classrooms that can be made available for providers. All classrooms have a teacher PC, an interactive whiteboard with built in speakers. Open spaces can have movable presentation equipment provided if requested. To arrange facilities or additional facilities, providers should request this at the time of arranging the visit. Providers are welcome to leave prospectuses or other material for students to read.

7. Previous providers

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

D6

Blackburn College

Runshaw College

Burnley College

Training 2000

Myerscough College

BRFC Community Trust

The ASK Project

NCS The Challenge

8. Pupil destinations

In the last two years our year 11 pupils moved to a range of providers in the local area after academy:

Apprenticeship

Craven College

Blackburn College

Nelson College

Cardinal Newman

Runshaw College

Bolton College

Bolton 6th Form

Burnley College

Myerscough College

North Lancs Training Group
Preston College
D6
DAES
T2000
Employment

9. Complaints

Any complaints related to provider access can be raised following the academy complaints procedure https://aldridgeeducation.org/docs/policies/Aldridge_Education_Complaints_Policy.pdf or directly with The Careers & Enterprise Company via provideraccess@careersandenterprise.co.uk

10. Links to other policies

Outline any links to other policies you have, such as:

- Safeguarding and child protection policy
- Careers guidance policy
- Curriculum policy
- Complaints policy
- Equality Policy and Objectives
- SEND

11. Monitoring arrangements

The academies' arrangements for managing the access of education and training providers to students are monitored by Neil Miele Careers Lead

This policy will be reviewed by Freddie Redfern Assistant Principal annually.

At every review, the policy will be moderated by the Local Governing Committee.