

Provider access policy statement

Beacon Academy



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1. Aims

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. 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. 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 8 to 13 for the purposes of informing them about approved technical education, qualifications or apprenticeships.

Schools 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).

Schools 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 school complies with these requirements.

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

Schools 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
- This section is not applicable to Beacon Academy as we are a year 7-11, secondary education provider only.

Our school will comply with this guidance by offering a range of encounters that meet the requirements of provider access legislation. The Beacon Academy Careers Fair will allow pupils access to a range of providers and there will be planned talks during the event from both of the local colleges to showcase their offers.

We also invite EQUANS, CATCH and the local authority into the school to discuss their training offers. We are currently partnered with EQUANS and receive support from them through our Enterprise Adviser and we are hoping to announce further partnerships with CATCH and NELC in the summer term 2023.

2.2 Meaningful provider encounters

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

1 encounter is defined as 1 meeting/session between pupils and 1 provider.

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

Schools 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

3. Student entitlement

All students in years 8 to 11 at Beacon Academy 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 assemblies, taster days, careers fair events and educational visits.
- Understand how to make applications for the full range of academic and technical courses

4. Management of provider access requests

4.1 Procedure

Procedure

A provider wishing to request access should contact:

Paul Sunley (Assistant Headteacher and Careers Leader)

Email: office@beaconacademy.co.uk

Alternatively you can telephone the school directly on: 01472 328888

4.2 Opportunities for access

A number of events, integrated into our careers programme, will offer providers an opportunity to speak to students and/or their parents/carers, we can offer our careers fair event, assemblies and lesson time to allow access to our students as well as parents evenings which would be supplementary.

Please speak to our Assistant Headteacher and Careers Lead 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.

4.3 Granting and refusing access

Access to our students will be granted wherever it is reasonable and practicable for us to do so. We will consider live online interactions however, this will only be done as a last resort as we believe face to face encounters offer far more benefit to our students.

We will refuse access where we believe the request is in contravention of any of our policies inclusive of but not limited to our safeguarding policy.

Please note that in years 9 and 11 there will be no provider access granted beyond the 28th February as all encounters must have taken place prior to this date for these year groups.

4.4 Safeguarding

Our safeguarding/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.

4.5 Premises and facilities

We will be able to offer standard presentation facilities such as screens and audio and access to appropriate spaces such as classrooms or the main hall for presenting to different numbers of students.

You will need to state your requirements in any communications with us so that we know what you will need when you arrive.

We would be appreciative of any resources or such as prospectuses or flyers that you could leave with us for distribution to students or as a contribution to the population of our careers library.

In the event of any public health incidents such as COVID-19 we will communicate arrangements with you and where necessary and possible an alternative approach will be mutually agreed.

5. Complaints

Any complaints related to provider access can be raised following the school complaints procedure or directly with The Careers & Enterprise Company via provideraccess@careersandenterprise.co.uk

6. Monitoring arrangements

The school's arrangements for managing the access of education and training providers to students are monitored by Mr Paul Sunley - Assistant Headteacher and Careers Lead.

This policy will be reviewed by Mr Paul Sunley.

At every review, the policy will be approved by the governing body.