



# The Deanery CE Academy

Part of the Diocese of Bristol  
Academies Trust

## Provider Access Policy

**Date Adopted:** September 2023

**Review Date:** September 2024

**Policy owner:** Mr. Neil Ouldrige

**Approved by:** David Macdonald

**1. Introduction** – This policy statement sets out the school’s arrangements for managing the access of providers to students at the school for the purposes of giving them information about the provider’s education or training offer. This complies with the school’s legal obligation under Section 42B of the Education Act 1997.

Schools and academies must give education and training providers the opportunity to talk to pupils in Years 8 to 11 about approved technical qualifications and apprenticeships. In January 2023 the updated Provider Access Legislation (PAL) came into force. The updated legislation specifies schools must provide at least six encounters with approved providers of apprenticeships and technical education 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

The new legislation will become 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.

**2. Pupil Entitlement** – Students in years 7 – 11 are entitled:

- To find out about technical education qualifications and apprenticeship opportunities, as part of a Careers Programme which provides information on the full range of education and training options available at each transition point.
- Students will have at least four encounters with a provider of technical education or apprenticeships. Two of these will occur before a child reaches the 28th February in Year 9 and another two before a child reaches the 28th February in Year 11.
- To hear from a range of local providers about the opportunities they offer, including technical education and apprenticeships – through assemblies, group discussions and taster events.
- To understand how to make applications for the full range of academic and technical courses.

## How?

The Deanery CE Academy will meet this new legislation by providing students with the possible following activities:

- Careers Fairs (at The Deanery or in the community)
- Visits to the workplace (preferably for organisations that offer inclusive apprenticeships)
- Employer visits to The Deanery which include information on apprenticeships
- Careers Assemblies
- Virtual presentations
- Tutorial events
- Enterprise Business Partnerships
- Focused careers advice and mentoring

**3. Management of Provider Access Requests – Procedure:** A provider wishing to request access should contact:

Neil Ouldrige,

Careers Lead

Peglars Way,

Wichelstowe,

Swindon,

SN1 7DA

Tel: 01793 236611, or

[neil.oultridge@dcea.org.uk](mailto:neil.oultridge@dcea.org.uk)

This Policy is made available to parents, staff and pupils via the The Deanery CE Academy website and on request a copy may be obtained from the main office.

**4. Opportunities for access:** A number of events, integrated into the school's Careers Programme, will offer providers an opportunity to come into school (this could be virtually) to speak to students and / or their parents/carers. Please speak to our Careers Lead, Mr. Neil Ouldrige, to identify the most suitable opportunity for you. Our Careers Programme is available on The Deanery CE Academy website.

Upcoming events are also publicised on The Deanery social media sites. Providers are welcome to leave a copy of their prospectus or other relevant course literature with the Careers Lead.

The school policies on Safeguarding and visitors sets out the school's approach to allowing providers into school as visitors to talk to our students. Please see The Deanery CE Academy website for the safeguarding policy.

Careers related activities can happen throughout the school week but the timetable can also be adjusted to accommodate businesses and apprenticeship providers. These activities can happen during the school day which starts at 8.50am and finishes at 3.25pm.

**5. Premises and facilities** – The Deanery CE Academy will make the Theatre, The Egg, Sports Hall, Meeting rooms or classroom(s) available for discussions between the provider and students, as appropriate to the activity.

The school will also make available IWB's and other specialist equipment to support provider presentations. The use of Microsoft Teams can also be arranged if required. This will all be discussed and agreed in advance of the visit with the Careers Lead or a member of the Senior Leadership or Pastoral Team.

Providers are welcome to leave a copy of their prospectus or other relevant course literature at the main reception or provide an electronic copy to the Careers Lead. This will then be accessible and available to students when and how we feel it is appropriate.

**6. External provisions** – The Deanery CE Academy liaise with the Swindon & Wiltshire Careers Hub to gain the best access to information in the county and choose relevant careers experience to the pupils.

**7.CEIAG Policy** - A copy of our Careers Education Advice and Guidance and Work-Related Learning policy (CEIAG) can be accessed via the school website. If you would like a printed copy, please contact the school office.

**8. Review of Policy** – The Deanery CE Academy considers the provider access policy document to be important and the policy will be reviewed by the careers leader every year.