



Blue Coat Church of England Academy

Provider Access Policy Statement

Date:		September 2025
Prepared by:		Mrs N McKeon
Ratified by the Governing Body on:		9 th October 2025
	Signature	
Principal		D Smith
Chair of Governors		L Parker
Review date:		February 2027

Context

Rationale

High quality careers education and guidance in school or college is critical to the futures of our students. It helps to prepare them for the world of work by providing a clear understanding of the skills and qualities that will serve them well, along with the various routes to jobs and careers that they might find engaging and rewarding. Our provision must enable all students to choose their pathways, improve their life opportunities and contribute to a productive and successful economy.

As the variety of pathways to employment increases every year, it is important that all young people have a full understanding of all the options available to them post-16 and post-18. They must, in particular, be made more aware of the wider technical education options such as T-Levels, Higher Technical Qualifications and the ever-growing number of apprenticeships at all Levels.

Commitment

Blue Coat CE Academy is committed to ensuring there is an opportunity for a range of education and training providers and employers to access students. This is for the purpose of informing them about the full range of education and training options, including technical education qualifications, apprenticeships, routes to employment and higher skills for the workplace. We are committed to enabling all students to access information on technical options and apprenticeships in particular. (Ref. 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.)

The school is committed to the provision of impartial, independent Careers Advice. Our approach to provider access, outlined in this Policy and in line with statutory duty, ensures no bias towards any future route. We are committed to securing the outcomes and future pathways that are best for each individual student.

Specific Commitments

Blue Coat CE Academy's Careers Programme features the following opportunities for Provider Access:

- A Futures event for all year groups, 7-13. These are calendared to take place once per academic year as a 'drop-down' day outside of normal lessons and appropriate to students' age and stage regarding their Careers education.
Examples include:
 - Workshops hosted by The Talent Foundry and Network Rail. Students have the opportunity to develop skills relevant to the workplace such as numeracy in context; teamwork; creativity; time management; fulfilling a brief; pitching a concept; pose questions of employees on their field of work.
 - Interactive online sessions with apprenticeship providers, technical providers and university providers with the opportunity to pose questions.
 - Workshops that focus on developing and improving skills required in interviews and writing personal statements.
- Additional, bespoke and timely opportunities suited to students needs and contexts.
Examples include:
 - University-based experience days.
 - Y12 and Y13 Level 1 Pathway students hearing in a small-group setting from University providers on courses accessible to them.
 - Y12's Futures Week which takes place in the summer term each year.
 - Mock Interviews for students in Y12-13 staged by local employers.
 - Visits from local businesses to share information on career opportunities, real-world skills, and build stronger connections within the community.

- We also host marketplace-style events for our students at regular intervals across the year appropriate to age and stage. Students must have the opportunity to interact with providers across the full spectrum, to pose questions and gain insights unique to them.

Independent Careers Advice and Guidance

Blue Coat CE Academy is committed to ensuring the provision of independent, impartial careers advice regarding providers and future routes to study and work. Our Careers Adviser is available on Wednesdays and Fridays, and most often works out of the Glass Room in our LRC (library). All students in Year 11 and Year 13 are offered a minimum of one careers guidance interview – follow-up appointments are made possible where beneficial. Year 9 students are also prioritised around the choices being made for their Year 10 and 11 pathways. This may look like a 1-1 appointment for students with high RONI scores (Risk of NEET Indicators); group sessions for others; Form time drop-ins; lunch and afterschool drop-ins to see our Adviser in the school's library setting. Parents/carers may also attend an interview with prior notice. Students in all year groups may also be referred for an interview by a member of the Senior Leadership Team, Head of Year, Pupil Progress Team, Form tutors or Teaching and Support Staff. Any student in any year can request an appointment with our careers advisor.

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1. Aims

This policy statement aims to set out our school's arrangements for managing the access that education and training providers may have to our 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

We wish to partner with as wide a range of providers as possible in order to:

- Develop our students' knowledge and awareness of all pathways available to them, including technical qualifications and apprenticeships.
- Support our 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.
- Mitigate the risk of students becoming NEET (young people Not in Education, Employment or Training).

2. Provider access requests

Equality and Diversity

Access is necessary to allow all students to access information about the full range of education, training and employment options open to our students. We are committed to facilitating encounters that encourage all students to make decisions about their future based on impartial information.

Opportunities for access

Grounds for granting requests for access

Blue Coat CE Academy is committed to ensuring there is an opportunity for a range of education and training providers and employers to access students. This is for the purpose of informing them about the full range of education and training options, including technical education qualifications, apprenticeships, routes to employment and higher skills for the workplace. We are committed to enabling all students to access information on technical options and apprenticeships in particular. (Ref. 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.)

Access is offered for relevant providers to attend assemblies, lessons, personal development days, Futures events or other bespoke events that Blue Coat Church of England Academy is arranging. Arrangements may also be made for our students to visit a provider as part of an organised trip.

Live/Virtual encounters

We are open to live online encounters with providers where this will have impact. The opportunity for students to ask questions of providers must be facilitated. These may be broadcast into classrooms or the school hall. Technology and IT compatibility checks must be organised in advance and appropriately tested.

Parents and Carers

Parental involvement is encouraged, and parents may be invited to attend the events to meet with providers and engage in surveys sent by Blue Coat Academy.

A number of opportunities exist through both planned and flexible events across the school for providers to gain access to our students. The table below is intended to give providers the chance to consider which might suit them best when requesting access.

Event	Description
Assemblies	A formal opportunity to speak to students regarding offer. Assemblies on a theme / to fit weeks relevant to students are particularly welcome e.g. Apprenticeships Week and Careers Week. Assemblies can be delivered to year groups 7-13, or to larger groups of students (7-9 or 10-13).
PD(Personal Development) days	Five days each academic year the timetable is collapsed for the delivery of our core personal development curriculum including PSHE and RHSE as well as Careers. An encounter with certain year groups or groups of students could take place on these days. Every year group has a Personal Development Day dedicated to futures and careers. Requests from providers to deliver part or all of these events are welcomed and given full consideration.
Futures events including the Whole School Careers Fair.	Around transition points (e.g. Year 9 Options process; Y11 next steps; Y13 next steps) students have an opportunity to explore available options including technical, vocational and apprenticeship routes as well as FE and HE providers. Requests to be invited to attend relevant marketplace events are always welcome.
Year 12 Futures Week	A week of inputs and events taking place towards the end of the Summer term. An opportunity to share available routes with Year 12 students as part of a week of exploration re. preparation for next steps.
Year 13 Post 18 Options Event	Providers are invited to express interest in attending to inform students about their technical, vocational, apprenticeship and / or academic pathways.
Year 11 into 12 Options Event	Providers are invited to express interest in attending to inform students about their technical, vocational, apprenticeship and / or academic pathways.
Year 9 into 10 Options Event	Providers are invited to express interest in attending to inform students about their technical, vocational, apprenticeship and / or academic pathways.
Year 10 Work Experience Day and Year 12 Work Experience Week	Providers are invited to express interest in offering places for our students to experience a real working environment and begin to develop work-based skills and behaviours.

Safeguarding

It is preferred that providers requesting access to our students are able to provide a current DBS check when signing in at Reception. The inability to provide this creates significant logistical challenges for both Blue Coat staff and visiting providers.

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. Appropriate safeguarding checks will be carried out. Providers will be met and supervised by a member of the Careers Team who will facilitate.

Contact

A provider wishing to request access should contact Mrs N McKeon, Assistant Principal.

Telephone: 01922 720558

Email: careers@bluecoatacademy.org

Complaints Procedure

Any complaints about this policy should be raised to the Principal, email: postbox@bluecoatacademy.org clearly stating Provider Access FAO Principal in the subject line.

Providers can access the DfE's Ladder of Support and Intervention which sets out a transparent and consistent framework for helping schools meet the provider access legislation, and for addressing cases of non-compliance.

Premises and facilities

The school may make the main Hall, classroom(s) or smaller meeting rooms available for discussions between the provider and students, as appropriate to the activity. The school will work to accommodate requests for AV and other specialist equipment to support providers with the delivery of presentations. Needs must be discussed and agreed in advance of the visit with the Careers Leader – providers must outline all resource requirements via email with a minimum of two working week's notice.

The following information and details need to be provided with requests and enquiries:

- The name of the training, vocational or apprenticeship provider you wish to represent
- The aim of the presentation or visit
- Proposed date and time
- The number of pupils the presentation is aimed at
- The duration of the presentation
- The target group (age range / specific cohort)
- Any facilities / special equipment the encounter requires
- The names and contact details of visiting staff
- What support from school staff is required on the day

If the request is notification of an event at an offsite venue, please include:

- Timings of the day
- A list of any other invited schools and providers who will be present
- Funding streams to support the school in meeting transport costs
- A risk assessment of their venue.

All requests should be emailed at least 6 weeks (a school half term) in advance of the proposed date. All requests will be given due consideration by the Careers Lead.

Providers should be aware that requests for access will not be taken up if:

- They impinge on students' preparation for public or internal exams
- They clash with other school events such as visits, other speakers, sports days, school photographs, Personal Development days, internal or public exams
- The school is unable to provide staff or other resources to support the visit
- Sufficient rooms or facilities are not available due to timetabling commitments or building work
- It is not clear that the request will benefit students in developing insight into the variety of pathways available to them (the school holds the full picture of student exposure and must seek to balance provider access for students)

For requests that are approved, Blue Coat Church of England Academy will provide clear instructions before the event on visitor parking, visitor registration, a contact member of staff and their contact details, resources and rooming, and the presentation facilities being provided.

3. Acknowledgement of statutory requirements and student entitlements

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.

- 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.

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](#). This policy is intended to illustrate how our school complies with these requirements, and to make clear to providers how they may request access to our students.

Blue Coat Church of England Academy fully supports the statutory requirement for students to have direct access to other providers of further education training, technical training and apprenticeships. Our school complies with the legal requirement to put on at least six encounters with providers of approved technical education qualifications or apprenticeships. This will primarily be done through Futures events hosted for each year group over the course of each academic year (years 7-13) as described above. It may also be done, or furthered, through assemblies, external career fairs, activities related to National Apprenticeship Week and National Careers Week, Personal Development Days which form the backbone of our PSHE offer, and as a result of providers attending careers events in school.

All students at Blue Coat Church of England Academy are entitled to:

- Find out about technical education qualifications and apprenticeships.
- Find out about opportunities, as part of a careers programme which provides information on the full range of education and training options available at each transition point.
- Hear from a range of providers about the opportunities they offer, including technical education and apprenticeships – through options events, assemblies, group discussions and taster events.
- Understand how to make applications for the full range of academic and technical courses open to them.

4. Monitoring arrangements

The school's arrangements for managing the access of education and training providers to students is managed by Mrs N McKeon, Assistant Principal.

This policy will be reviewed by the Careers Lead, annually. At every review, the policy will be approved by the Governing Body and Principal.

We are committed to working closely with our local Careers Hub and our Enterprise Coordinator to monitor and continually develop the efficacy and impact of Careers education including Provider Access on all students. This includes the use of the Compass benchmarking audit tool at several strategic points over the course of each year.

5. Contact details

Assistant Principal – Mrs N McKeon

Telephone: 01922 720558

Email: careers@bluecoatacademy.org

Careers Lead – Miss T Simmonds

Telephone: 01922 720558

Email: careers@bluecoatacademy.org

Independent Careers Adviser – Carol Facey

Telephone: 01922 720558

Email: careers@bluecoatacademy.org

6. Links to other policies

- Safeguarding/child protection policy
- School policies relating to Careers, Equality and Diversity, and SEND.

Appendix

Providers recently accessing students at Blue Coat CE Academy include:

Walsall College

Skills Training UK

DAC Beachcroft

Tarmac

AF Blakemore's

MOD/RAF

Primary Goal

IGD

Dell Technologies

Nova

SCL Skills Training UK

Metro Alliance

West Midlands Police

Younity Coop

Cavity Training

BMET

Aston University

Wolverhampton University

Staffordshire University

University of Law

De Montford

Keele University

Newman University

UCB

Coventry University

University of Gloucester

Leicester University