





Blue Coat Church of England Academy

Provider Access Policy Statement

Date:	January 2019	(Original – reviewed January 2021) Updated January 2023 – New Provider Access Legislation
Prepared by:		Mrs R Devlin
Ratified by the Governing Body on:		
	Signature	
Principal		Mr D Smith
Chair of Governors		Mrs L. Parker
Review date:	January 2024	

From Ephesians 4 v 1:

"I urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called".

Careers Leader – Mrs R Devlin

Contact Details

Careers Leader: Mrs R Devlin

Telephone: 01922 720558

Email: st-devlin-r@bluecoatacademy.org

Roles and Responsibilities

- To plan, organise and facilitate the careers education in the school
- To ensure that all students are given and have access to good careers guidance
- To provide opportunities for students to get a better understanding of potential work and progression routes
- To monitor proposed destinations – to ensure students are making choices that are both appropriate and aspirational
- To analyse data on previous destinations to inform planning and the needs of students
- To undertake an annual review of CEIAG provision and report to the school governors and Head teacher
- To ensure statutory guidance is achieved by September 2020

Independent Careers Adviser: Carol Facey

Telephone: 01922 720558

Email: st-facey-c@bluecoatacademy.org

Roles and Responsibilities

Our careers adviser at Blue Coat Church of England Academy is Carol Facey. Carol is based in the careers room next to the safeguarding office on Wednesdays and Fridays. All students in Year 11 and Year 13 are offered a minimum of one careers guidance interview - although more can be requested if further support is required. Self and parent/carer referrals can also be made and students in all years can request an appointment by attending a drop-in session at break, lunchtime or after school until 3.30pm. Parents/carers may also attend the interview, with prior notice. Students 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.

All pupils in all years have access to a careers advisor by referral or personal request.

External Enterprise Advisor: Mrs Donna Brown

Contracts and Stewardship Manager, Walsall Housing Group

Email: donna.brown@whgrp.co.uk

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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.

Commitment

Blue Coat Church of England Academy 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. Blue Coat Church of England Academy 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.

We endeavour 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).

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

It aims to:

- To develop the knowledge and awareness to our students of all career pathways available to them, including technical qualifications and apprenticeships.
- To support 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.
- To reduce drop out from courses and avoid the risk of students becoming NEET (Young people not in education, employment or training).

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 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 shows how our school complies with these requirements.

3. Student entitlement

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. The school will comply with the new legal requirement to put on at least six encounters with providers of approved technical education qualifications or apprenticeships. This will be done through assemblies in National Apprenticeship Week and National Careers Week, PD Days, Futures Events and additional providers attending careers events in school.

All students in years 8 to 13 at Blue Coat Church of England Academy are entitled to:

- To find out about technical education qualifications and apprenticeships
- To 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
- To hear from a range of local providers about the opportunities they offer, including technical education and apprenticeships – through options events, assemblies and group discussions and taster events
- To understand how to make applications for the full range of academic and technical courses

4. Management of provider access requests

4.1 Procedure

A provider wishing to request access should contact Mrs R Devlin, Senior Assistant Headteacher – Careers Lead.

Telephone: 01922 720558

Email: st-devlin-r@bluecoatacademy.org

Equality and Diversity

Access to other providers is available and promoted to allow all students to access information about other providers of further education and apprenticeships. We are committed to encouraging all students to make decisions about their future based on impartial information.

4.2 Opportunities for access

Grounds for granting requests for access

Access will be given for providers to attend during school assemblies, lessons, personal development days, Futures Events or Raising Aspirations events that Blue Coat Church of England Academy is arranging. Students may also travel to visit another provider as part of organised trips arranged by the school.

Live/Virtual encounters

We 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.

A number of events, integrated into our careers programme, will offer providers an opportunity to come into school to speak to students and/or their parents/carers. This is detailed in the Bakers Clause statement and the dates are updated each academic year based on the school calendar but an overview of these opportunities are listed below.

Events	Description
Assemblies	A formal opportunity to speak to students regarding offer. Assemblies within themes and appropriate weeks relevant to students will be considered e.g. National Careers Week
PD days	Four days each academic year the timetable is collapsed for personal development curriculum including PSHE and RHSE as well as Careers. A formal or informal gathering with certain year groups or students could take place at this time
Futures Days	KS3 KS4 KS5 Around transition points students have an opportunity to explore available options including technical, vocational and apprenticeship routes as well as FE and HE providers.
Y12 Futures Week	A formal opportunity to share non-academic routes with Y12 students as part of a week of exploration in terms of available next steps and opportunities for Y12 students.
Y13 Post 18 Options Event	Y13 event where providers may wish to attend to inform students about their technical, vocational or apprenticeship routes.
Y11 into 12 Options Event	Y11 event where providers may wish to attend to inform students about their technical, vocational or apprenticeship routes.
Y9 into 10 Options Event	Y9 event where providers may wish to attend to inform students about their technical, vocational or apprenticeship routes.

In term 2 all pupils in all year groups have the opportunity to apply to become a volunteer West Midlands Police Cadet.

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.

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.

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

4.5 Premises and facilities

The school will make the main hall, classroom or private meeting rooms available for discussions between the provider and students, as appropriate to the activity. The school will make available AV and other specialist equipment to support providers with the delivery of presentations. This will be discussed and agreed in advance of the visit with the Careers Leader.

The Careers Leader or Careers Adviser will organise this, working closely with the provider to ensure the facilities are appropriate to the audience.

Providers are welcome to leave a copy of their prospectus or relevant literature at the Careers Library in the Learning Resource Centre. The LRC is available to all students before and after school, lunch and break times.

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

- The name of the training, vocational or apprenticeship provider you 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
- What facilities/special equipment the presentation 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 other invited schools and providers, any accessible funding streams for transport costs and a risk assessment of the 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 and Senior Leadership Team.

Requests can be refused 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 to support the visit due to previous school commitments
- Sufficient rooms or facilities are not available due to timetabling commitments or building work

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, the room to be used and the presentation facilities this room offers.

5. Links to other policies

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

6. Monitoring arrangements

The school's arrangements for managing the access of education and training providers to students is monitored by Mrs R Devlin, Senior Assistant Headteacher.

This policy will be reviewed by Mrs R Devlin, annually. At every review, the policy will be approved by the Governing Body and Principal.

Included in this, is an annual review of the provision with recommendations for further impact and engagement.

The Compass Benchmark Tool is used to inform our careers provision planning. As part of the review, information and feedback is gathered in a number of ways:

- Student voice surveys
- Staff voice surveys
- Employer and visitor feedback
- Collation of destination data

Appendix

Providers who have been invited into Blue Coat Church of England Academy to date include:

Walsall College

Skills Training UK

Aston University

DAC Beachcroft

Staffordshire University

Tarmac

University of Law

AF Blakemore's

MOD/RAF

Wolverhampton University

Destinations of previous pupils at post-16 include:

Walsall Academy

Walsall College

Sandwell College

Destinations of previous pupils at post-18 include:

Aston University

Birmingham City University

Keele University

University of Wolverhampton

Degree Apprenticeship