



## Orsett Heath Academy



**SOUTH WEST ESSEX**  
COMMUNITY EDUCATION TRUST

Policy Name	<b>Provider Access Policy</b>
Written by	<b>Mr L Taylor. Deputy Headteacher</b>
Document Status	Live
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To be Reviewed by	September 2024 <i>or following any concerns and/or updates to national/local guidance or procedures</i>

## Introduction

This policy statement sets out the school's arrangements for managing the access of providers to the school for the purpose of giving them information about the provider's education or training offer. This complies with the school's legal obligations under Section 42B of the Education Act 1997.

## **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**

Orsett Heath 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. Orsett Heath 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.

Orsett Heath Academy 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).

## **Aims**

Orsett Heath Academy's policy for Access to other education and training providers has the following aims:

To develop the knowledge and awareness of our students, parents and carers of all career pathways available to them, including technical qualifications and apprenticeships.

To support young people to be able to make informed choices about opportunities for education before making crucial choices about their future options.

To help students make the right choices that will lead to careers that are right for them and contribute towards happy and rewarding lives.

## **Pupil entitlement**

All pupils in years 8 to 13 are entitled:

- To find out about technical education qualifications and apprenticeships 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 and national 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 and prepare for interviews for the full range of academic and technical courses.
- For pupils of compulsory school age these encounters are mandatory and there will be a minimum of two encounters for pupils during the ‘first key phase’ (Year 7 to 9) and two encounters for pupils during the ‘second key phase’ (Year 10 to 11).
- These provider encounters will be scheduled during the main school hours and the provider will be given a reasonable amount of time to, as a minimum:
  - share information about both the provider and the approved technical education qualification and apprenticeships that the provider offers
  - explain what career routes those options could lead to
  - provide insights into what it might be like to learn or train with that provider (including the opportunity to meet staff and pupils from the provider)
  - answer questions from pupils.

### **Meaningful provider encounters**

One encounter is defined as one meeting/session between pupils and one provider. We are committed to providing meaningful encounters to all pupils using the Making it Meaningful Checklist.

Meaningful online engagement is also an option, and we are open to providers that are able to provide live online engagement with our pupils.

### **Links with other policies**

It supports and is underpinned by key school policies including those for Careers, Child Protection, Equality and Diversity, and SEND.

### **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. Orsett Heath Academy is committed to encouraging all students to make decisions about their future based on impartial information.

### Management of provider access requests

#### **Procedure**

A provider wishing to request access should contact Mr L Taylor, Deputy Headteacher [taylorl@oha.swecet.org](mailto:taylorl@oha.swecet.org)

#### **Opportunities for access**

The school offers a minimum of four provider encounters (OHA is unable to offer provider encounters to Year 12 and 13) required by law and a number of additional events, integrated into the school careers programme. We will offer providers an opportunity to come into school to speak to pupils or their parents or carers.

Please speak to our Careers Leader to identify the most suitable opportunity for you. Below is a summary of the current provision, aimed at developing our pupils' knowledge and understanding of the post 16 technical/vocational qualifications and pathways, including apprenticeships. It also includes opportunities where providers meet directly with them. This summary will update each time additional activities and opportunities are provided.

	Autumn Term	Spring Term	Summer Term
ALL YR GROUPS	Introduction to Careers in Year Group assemblies	National Apprenticeship Week - Assembly, week of tutor time sessions, optional webinars for students to attend, and parental guidance/support shared  National Careers Week – Assembly, week of tutor time sessions, optional webinars for students to attend, and parental guidance/support shared	
Year 7	Tutor time and PSHE curriculum time presentations covering post 16 technical qualifications and apprenticeships.  Introduction to the Unifrog platform and pathways		Tutor time and PSHE curriculum time presentations covering post 16 technical qualifications and apprenticeships.
Year 8	Tutor time and PSHE curriculum time presentations covering post 16 technical qualifications, apprenticeships and FE/HE  Unifrog platform and pathways	Make Happen workshop	Medical mavericks enrichment day
Year 9	Tutor time and PSHE curriculum time presentations covering post 16 technical qualifications, apprenticeships and FE/HE  Unifrog platform and pathways	Invitation to attend Virtual Careers Fair within NCW including Natwest, Health Careers, Maritime UK, Engineering UK and UK Space Agency  Invitation to attend Unifrog Next Steps Student Fair with Univeristy of	Apps for Good enrichment activity day  University visit day  Meeting with Careers Adviser  <i>No encounters – legislation requires encounters to take</i>

		Manchester and Warwick, as well as big name employers and apprenticeship providers like the BBC and EY	<i>place by 28 February if in Year 9</i>
Year 10 <i>Planned</i>	Focus Day – Post 16 qualifications and Pathways	Apprenticeships and Traineeships presentation  AMSP Maths enrichment day	Technical/vocational taster days at local colleges and training providers, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• USP – Palmers Campus</li> <li>• SEC – Grays Campus</li> </ul> Meeting with Careers Adviser
Year 11 <i>Planned</i>	Meeting with Careers Adviser  Post 16 provider open evenings  Post 16 applications Mock Interview Day including SEC, USP, Writtle, Barking and Dagenham, Choice Training and employers	Meeting with Careers Adviser  Post 16 provider open evenings  Post 16 applications Focus Day – KS5 opportunities; including presentations from USP, SEC, Osbourne (and Writtle).	<i>No encounters – legislation requires encounters to take place by 28 February if in Year 9</i>  Confirmation of post 16 education and training destinations for Year 11 pupils.

#### **Who should providers contact to discuss events and options?**

Providers can speak to our Deputy Headteacher, Mr Taylor to discuss possible attendance at relevant events. Our Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy sets out the school's approach to allowing providers into school to speak to our pupils.

#### **What are the rules for granting and refusing access requests?**

We will grant access requests that meet the following criteria:

- Requests from Ofsted registered 11-19 providers
- That are reasonable and do not impact on existing educational provision for our pupils

#### **What can providers expect once a request has been accepted?**

Once we have approved a provider, we will work with them to identify the best method for providing access to our pupils. We will make the school hall, classrooms and private meeting rooms available to host discussions between providers and pupils. We will also make presentation equipment, such as projectors and televisions, available to providers. Arrangements will be discussed in advance between our careers leader and a nominated member of the provider's team.

#### **Can providers leave prospectuses for pupils to read?**

Providers are welcome to leave a copy of their prospectus and other relevant course literature with Mr L Taylor

#### **Parents and Carers**

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

### **Management**

The Careers Leader coordinates all provider requests and is responsible to his/her senior management line manager.

### Approval and review

This policy statement was approved by the school's Senior Leadership Team in September 2023. The next review will take place on September 2024.

Signed: Mr S Bell – Headteacher

Signed: Mrs L Bostock – Named Trustee

Signed: Mrs V Northall - Chair of Trustees