

Sandwell Academy

Provider Access Policy

Introduction

The policy statement sets out the School's arrangements for managing the access of providers to students at 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 and the Provider Access Legislation, January 2023.

Student entitlement

All students in Year 7-13 are entitled:

- To find out about technical education qualifications and apprenticeships opportunities, as part of the careers programme which provides information on the full range of education and training options at each transition point;
- To hear from a range of local providers about the opportunities they offer, including technical education and apprenticeships, through assembly talks, information sessions and at our annual careers fair;
- To understand how to make applications for the full range of academic and technical courses.

The School recognises that for students of compulsory school age these encounters are mandatory. There will be a minimum of:

- two encounters for year 8 to 9 pupils (first key phase)
- two encounters for year 10 to 11 pupils (second key phase)
- two encounters for year 12 to 13 pupils (third key phase)

For pupils in year 12 to 13, particularly those that have not yet decided on their next steps, there are two more provider encounters available during this period, which are optional for pupils to attend.

These provider encounters will be scheduled during the main school hours of 8:30am to 3:20pm 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 students from the provider)
- answer questions from students.

Meaningful provider encounters

One encounter is defined as one meeting/session between students and one provider. We are committed to providing meaningful encounters to all students using the [Making it meaningful checklist](#), provided by the Careers Enterprise Company.

Providers

We have invited the following providers from the local area to speak to our students:

Education & Training	Employers
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sandwell College• Halesowen College• Dudley College• Walsall College	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• NHS• Army / Navy / RAF• National Highways• Police

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NOVA Training • Ask Apprenticeships • Birmingham City University • University of Birmingham • Aston University • Coventry University • Juniper Training • Uniconnect (previously Aspire) • Inspirational Learning Group • AimHigher Programme • Skills UK 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PwC • Doocey Group • Keltruck • Pinsett Mason • Vinci • Sandwell Council • Crowe UK • The West Brom • Lovell • AA • A & M EDM • West Midlands Ambulance
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Destinations of our pupils (2023 leavers)

Last year, our year 11 students moved to a range of providers:

Destination	Percentage of Year Group
Sandwell Academy Sixth Form	46.0%
Other Sixth Form	7.5%
Vocational College Course	38.5%
Apprenticeships / Traineeships	2.0%
Sport Scholarships	3.5%
Army	0.5%
Alternative provision	0.5%
Duel registered	0.5%
Employment	0.5%
Left country	0.5%

Last year, our year 13 students moved to a range of providers:

Destination	Percentage of Year Group
University	81%
Apprenticeships	4%
Employment	7%
Gap Year	3%
NEET	5%

Management of provider access requests:

Procedure

A provider wishing to request access should contact:

Careers Team: Telephone 0121 525 1700

Email: careers@sandwellacademy.com

Opportunities for access

The school offers the six provider encounters required by law as well as a large number of additional events, integrated into the school careers programme. An overview of this programme can be seen in the [Careers Curriculum](#) page on the school website.

A number of events, integrated into the school careers programme, will offer providers an opportunity to come into school to speak to students and/or their parents/carers. Please speak to Careers Department to identify the most suitable opportunity for you.

Premises and facilities

The School will make the School's Theatre, Sports Hall, Careers Department or the Conference room available for discussions between the provider and students, as appropriate to the activity. The School will also make available ICT and other specialist equipment to support provider presentations. This will all be discussed and agreed in advance of the visit with the Careers Leader or a member of the Careers Team.

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

Providers are welcome to leave a copy of their prospectus or other relevant course literature in the Careers Resource Centre, which is managed by the School Careers Team. This resource centre is located in the library on the first floor of the school opposite the Careers office and is available to all students throughout the working day.

Complaints:

Any complaints with regards to provider access can be raised following the school complaints procedure.

Policy review

This policy will be reviewed again in August 2024.