



Whitley Bay High School: Provider Access Policy

Statement

Summary (Careers and Enterprise Company, 2023)

“The [updated provider access legislation \(PAL\)](#) has now been enacted. It 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.

This 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.”

Upon access, providers must deliver the following:

- Information about the provider and the approved technical education qualifications or apprenticeships that the provider offers;
- Information about the careers to which those technical education qualifications or apprenticeships might lead;
- A description of what learning or training with the provider is like;
- Responses to questions from the pupils about the provider or approved technical education qualifications and apprenticeships.

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

Whitley Bay High School 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. WBHS 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.

WBHS 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

The WBHS policy for access to other education and training providers has the following aims:

- To develop the knowledge and awareness of 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).

Student entitlement

WBHS 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 ensure at least **six encounters with providers** of approved technical education qualifications or apprenticeships.

This will be done within our extensive careers program in activities such as (but not limited to) careers fairs, networking, assemblies, personal development tutorials, guest speakers and provider visits.

Development

This policy has been developed and is reviewed annually by the Careers Leader, senior leadership and linked governors, based on current good practice guidelines by the Department for Education.

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. WBHS is committed to encouraging all students to make decisions about their future based on impartial information.

Requests for access

Requests for access should be directed to **Steph Towns**, Careers Leader. Steph may be contacted by telephone or email, steph.towns@whitleybayhighschool.org Tel 0191 731 70 70

Grounds for granting requests for access

Access will be given for providers to attend during school assemblies, timetabled careers or life lessons, and careers or raising aspirations events that WBHS is arranging. Students may also travel to visit another provider as part of the trip to be organised in partnership with WBHS.

Details of premises or facilities to be provided to a person who is given access

WBHS will provide an appropriate room or assembly hall, to be agreed. All rooms have computers, projectors and screens provided. Computer rooms can also be arranged. The Careers Leader will organise this, working closely with the provider to ensure the facilities are appropriate to the audience. Appropriate safeguarding checks will be carried out. Providers will be met and supervised by a member of the Careers Team who will facilitate.

Live/Virtual encounters

WBHS 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.

Management

The Careers Leader coordinates all provider requests and is responsible to SLT.

Monitoring review and evaluation

The Policy is monitored and evaluated annually via the Career Leader and SLT careers link.

Policy Coordinator: Steph Towns

Policy Reviewed: January 2023

Appendix

A sample of some providers who have been invited into WBHS to date include:

1. Tyne Met College
2. Newcastle College
3. ASK Apprenticeships
4. UXL
5. TDR Apprenticeships
6. BL Training
7. Northumbria Youth Action
8. Barnardos
9. Northumberland College
10. Tyne North Training
11. NHS
12. Learning Curve
13. North Tyneside Council
14. DWP
15. HMRC
16. Royal IHC
17. BT
18. Muckle LLP
19. Sage
20. Northumbria Water