



CAREERS PROVIDER ACCESS POLICY

West Lakes Academy Provider Access Policy Introduction

This policy statement sets out the school's arrangements for managing the access of providers to pupils 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.

The January 2018 "Careers guidance and access for education and training providers" statutory guidance states: *"...This statutory guidance has been updated to expand on the aim set out in the strategy to make sure that all young people in secondary school get a programme of advice and guidance that is stable, structured and delivered by individuals with the right skills and experience."*

Schools and academies have an "...existing duty to secure independent careers guidance and the new duty to provide opportunities to a range of providers of technical education and apprenticeships to access pupils to inform them about technical education qualifications or apprenticeships."

The statutory duties:

Paragraph 2 - "The governing body must ensure that the independent careers guidance provided:

- is presented in an impartial manner, showing no bias or favouritism towards a particular institution, education or work option;*
- includes information on the range of education or training options, including apprenticeships and technical education routes;*
- is guidance that the person giving it considers will promote the best interests of the pupils to whom it is given."*

Paragraph 3 - "The Technical and Further Education Act 2017 inserts section 42B into the Education Act 1997 and came into force on 2 January 2018. This new law requires the proprietor of all schools and academies to ensure that there is an opportunity for a range of education and training providers to access all pupils in year 8 to year 13 for the purpose of informing them about

approved technical education qualifications or apprenticeships.”

Paragraph 61 - “In practice this will mean every school allowing each provider access to all pupils in years 8 to 13 to inform them about the varied careers options open to them and courses and qualifications they offer and what each option entails.”

Paragraph 62 - The school must ensure that there are opportunities⁴⁴ for providers of approved technical education qualifications and apprenticeships to visit the school to speak to all pupils in years 8 to 13. We would expect the opportunities to include⁴⁵ a visit from a Studio School to inform key stage 4 choices; a visit from a University Technical College to inform key stage 4 and key stage 5 choices; and visits from a range of providers of apprenticeships and technical options, including an FE college to inform key stage 4, key stage 5 and post-18 choices.

Pupil entitlement

All pupils in years 8-13 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 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.

⁴⁴ ‘Schools are not required to accept every request from a provider to visit but must demonstrate, through their policy statement on provider access, that a number of opportunities are available to all pupils in each year group from years 8 to 13.

⁴⁵ Except where there is no such provider in the area that pupils could reasonably be expected to consider attending in future, due to the travelling distance involved.

Management of provider access requests

Procedure

A provider wishing to request access should contact

Telephone: 01946 820356

Email: contactus@westlakesacademy.org.uk

Opportunities for access

A number of events, integrated into the school careers programme, will offer providers an opportunity to come into school to speak to pupils and/or their parents/carers:

| YEAR GROUP | EVENT(S) | TERM |
|------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| Year 11 | Parents' Evening | Early Autumn (Early October) |
| Post-16 | Parents' Evening | Early Autumn (Mid-October) |
| Year 10 | Parents' Evening | Late Autumn (Mid-November) |
| Year 9 | Parents' Evening | Early Spring (Mid-January) |
| Year 8 | Options & Parents' Evening | Late Spring (Mid-March) |
| Year 8 | World of Work Event | Late Spring (Mid-March) |
| Year 10 | Ready for Work Event | Early Summer (Early June) |

Please speak to our Careers Leader to identify the most suitable opportunity for you.

The provider will give assurance, in accordance with the guidance, that they are attending for *“the purpose of informing [students] about approved technical education qualifications or apprenticeships”* together with the associated pathways and not to promote their institution for the purposes of recruiting students from the school.

Premises and facilities

The school will make classrooms available for discussions between the provider and students, as appropriate to the activity. This will all be discussed and agreed in advance of the visit with the Careers Leader or a member of their team. Providers are welcome to leave a copy of their prospectus or other relevant course literature with the Head/Lead for Careers.

Approval and review

Approved May 2018

Next review May 2019