

St Mary's: Provider Access Policy Statement

(Includes the Department of Education, July 2021 "Baker Clause" and the Provider Access Legislation, January 2023)

Ownership: St Mary's Catholic College (SMCC) – part of HFCMAT

Date updated: 24th January 2023

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 (HTQs).

Commitment

At SMCC we are committed to ensuring that 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. We are fully aware of the responsibility to set students on the path that will secure the best outcome that 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 particular route, be that academic or technical.

Our careers programme is designed 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

SMCC's policy for access to other education and training providers has the following aims:

- Develop the knowledge and awareness of our students in relation to all career pathways available to them, including technical qualifications and apprenticeships.
- Support young people to have access to learn more about opportunities for education and training outside of school, before making crucial choices about their future options.
- Reduce the number of students dropping out of courses of study and, by implication, avoiding the risk of students becoming NEET (Young people not in education, employment or training).

Student Entitlement

SMCC 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 (2023) to facilitate **at least six encounters** with providers of approved technical education qualifications or apprenticeships. This will be done in line with the key phases of learning, during years 8 to 13.

Students will be provided with (as a minimum);

- Two encounters in the first key phase (Year 8 or Year 9 – up to end of Feb. Year 9).
- Two encounters in the second phase (Year 10 or 11)
- Two encounters in the third key phase (Year 12 or 13)

The quality and consistency of provider encounters will be monitored to ensure that they are meaningful and impactful for students. The new requirements mandate that all learners must attend (optional for Year 12 and 13) and that these encounters take place within the 'normal' school day. Students must be allowed the opportunity to ask questions of the provider at some point within each encounter.

In addition to these encounters, the careers programme will also provide a range of additional provision, including visits to school by providers during careers fairs etc., assemblies on pathways from various sources (including employer based apprenticeships), a focus on curriculum linked apprenticeship opportunities during National Apprenticeship Week (working closely with Amazing Apprenticeships and ASK) and alternative career paths, focusing on growth sectors, during National Careers Week.

Development

This policy has been developed and is reviewed annually by the Careers Lead, Mr Wellens and Line Manager, Mrs. Parry, based on current good practice guidelines by the Department for Education.

Links with other policies

The Provider Access policy supports and is underpinned by other 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. SMCC is committed to encouraging all students to make decisions about their future based on impartial and unbiased information.

Requests for access

Requests for access should be directed to **Mr Wellens**, Careers Lead. Mr Wellens may be contacted by telephone or email as follows:

0151 645 5049 – Extension 508

Or via email – leswellens@hfcmat.com

Grounds for granting requests for access

Access will be given for providers to attend during school assemblies, timetabled Careers or Personal Development lessons, as well as Careers or Raising Aspirations events that SJP is arranging. Students may also travel to visit another provider as part of the trips organised in partnership with the provider and either a Head of Year, Head of Department or the Careers Lead.

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

SMCC will provide an appropriate room or assembly hall to be agreed. Access to computers, projectors and screens can be provided on request. Computer rooms can also be arranged. The Careers Lead 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 the encounter.

Live/Virtual encounters

SMCC 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 Lead coordinates all provider requests and is responsible to his senior management line manager.

Complaints Procedure

Any complaints about this policy should be raised in the first instance to **Mr Wellens** via email:
careers@stjohnplessington.com

Mr Wellens will endeavour to resolve any issues and, failing this, escalate to his line manager Mrs. Parry.

Monitoring review and evaluation

The Policy is monitored and evaluated annually via the Senior Leadership Team. Any amendments to the policy as a result of new legislation will be completed within timelines directed by the Department for Education.

Policy Coordinator: Mrs. Parry

Policy Reviewed: January 2023

UPDATED JANUARY 2023

Appendix

Examples of Training Providers who have worked with and/or been invited into SMCC to date (2022-2023) include:

Wirral Metropolitan Technical College (Wirral Met.)

Reeseheath College

LLS Sports College

Ignite Teacher Training

City of Liverpool College

Engineering College (Liverpool and Birkenhead)

Liverpool Performing Arts (LIPA)

Hugh Baird College (Bootle)

In addition to the above, other 'whole school year pathway' events (on-site) have included:

Careers Fair (25 organisations including providers, FE colleges, universities, armed forces) – off timetable in school time - 9th of November 2022 for Years 8 to 13 inclusive.

BBC (offering apprenticeship) storytelling visits– off timetable (during school day)

Years 10 to 13 – 12th of October 2022 Years 7 to 9 – 6th of December 2022

Nestle Mentoring Sessions (Option choice pathways and apprenticeship routes) – 3 x 'Live Team' sessions – whole of Year 9 25th of Jan. 2023, 8th and 15th of Feb. 2023

Home Office / Civil Service (apprenticeship routes) Dates TBC for 20223

Destinations of previous pupils from SMCC (2017-18) include:

Wirral Met.

Birkenhead Sixth Form

Mosslands Comprehensive

Weatherhead High

Reaseheath

Hugh Baird College

Various paid apprenticeships (x9)