

St Mary's Catholic College

Provider Access Policy – 2025–2026
(updated 08/09/25)

Introduction

This policy statement sets out the school's arrangements for managing the access of providers to pupils at St Mary's Catholic College, for the purpose of giving them information about the provider's education or training offer.

It complies with the school's legal obligations under Section 42B of the Education Act 1997, known as the Provider Access Legislation (PAL), and should be read alongside the school's Careers Policy and the Gatsby Benchmarks of Good Career Guidance.

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.
- Hear from a range of local providers about the opportunities they offer, including technical education and apprenticeships – through options events, assemblies, group discussions, taster events and careers fairs.
- Understand how to make applications for the full range of academic and technical courses.

In line with statutory requirements:

Key Phase	Year Groups	Minimum Provider Encounters	Status
First Key Phase	Years 8–9	2	Compulsory
Second Key Phase	Years 10–11	2	Compulsory

Third Key Phase	Years 12–13	2	Available on request, particularly for pupils undecided on next steps
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These provider encounters will take place during normal school hours and will be designed to be meaningful and high quality, following the 'Making it Meaningful' checklist provided by the Department for Education.

Content of provider encounters

As a minimum, each provider encounter will give pupils the opportunity to:

- Receive information about the provider and the approved technical education qualifications and apprenticeships that they offer.
- Understand the career routes those options could lead to.
- Gain insight into what it might be like to learn or train with that provider, including opportunities to meet staff and students.
- Ask questions and engage in discussion.

Both face-to-face and live online engagement are acceptable.

Previous and current providers

In previous years, pupils have benefitted from encounters with:

- Aldi/IDG
- ASK – apprenticeship support
- Nestlé – apprenticeships
- Home Office/Civil Service – apprenticeships
- Airbus – apprenticeships
- Air-Products
- Atkins Realis

- Armed Forces – apprenticeships
- Wirral Metropolitan FE College
- LLS Sports Academy
- Steven Gerrard Academy
- Reaseheath Agricultural College
- LIPA
- BBC – apprenticeships

In 2024–2025, we added:

- Birkenhead Sixth Form College
- Liverpool Life Science UTC
- NHS – Medical Careers (Sefton SFC)

We continue to expand our programme, building links with further and higher education institutions, national and local employers, and our own Alumni network.

Management of provider access requests


Procedure

A provider wishing to request access should contact:

Mr Les Wellens

Careers Lead – HFCMAT

 leswellens@hfcmat.com

 0151 639 7531 (Extension 210)

Alternatively, enquiries can be directed via the school office email:
office@stmaryscatholiccollege.org.uk

Opportunities for access

The school offers at least six training provider encounters across the three key phases, in line with PAL requirements, plus additional encounters integrated into the school's wider careers programme.

The full careers programme, including fixed and additional events, is published on the school website under the Careers section. This is regularly updated as new opportunities are confirmed.

We will offer providers an opportunity to speak to pupils, parents and carers at suitable events identified in collaboration with the Careers Lead.

Premises and facilities

- The school will make the main hall, classrooms or private meeting rooms available for discussions between the provider and pupils, as appropriate to the activity.
 - AV and specialist equipment will be available as required.
 - Providers may supply prospectuses or other relevant literature for display in the Careers Resource Centre and the Sixth Form information area.
 - All visitors are expected to comply with the school's safeguarding and visitor policies.
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Destination data

Information on pupils' destinations for previous years is published on the school website (see Careers > Destination Data) and can also be requested from the Careers Lead.

Complaints

Any complaints with regards to provider access can be raised via the school's Complaints Procedure, available on the school website, or directly with The Careers & Enterprise Company at:

 provideraccess@careersandenterprise.co.uk

Approval and review

Approved: 8 September 2025 by the Governors at the Curriculum and Standards Committee
Next review: September 2026

Signed:

- [Rachael Clarke] – Chair of Governors
- [Kevin Maddocks] – Headteacher

Careers Governor Link: [Insert Name]