St Mary's Catholic College
Wallasey

Provider Access Policy

2026-2028

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Contents

1 CONTEXT AND PURPOSE 2

2 PUPIL ENTITLEMENT 2

3 CONTENT OF PROVIDER ENCOUNTERS 3

4 PREVIOUS AND CURRENT PROVIDERS 3

5 MANAGEMENT OF PROVIDER ACCESS REQUESTS 4

6 OPPORTUNITIES FOR ACCESS 4

7 GROUNDS FOR GRANTING OR REFUSING REQUESTS 4

8 PREMISES AND FACILITIES 5

9 DESTINATION DATA 5

10 COMPLAINTS 5

11 APPROVAL AND REVIEW **5**

1 CONTEXT AND PURPOSE

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.

This policy statement sets out the school's arrangements for meeting its duties under sections 42A and 42B of the Education Act 1997, as amended, and the current Department for Education statutory guidance, Careers guidance and access for education and training providers." last updated on 23 June 2026

2 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	Mandatory for school to provide, optional for pupils to attend.

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.

The first two encounters must take place at any time during Year 8 or between 1 September and 28 February of Year 9. The second two must take place at any time during Year 10 or between 1 September and 28 February of Year 11. The final two must take place at any time during Year 12 or between 1 September and 28 February of Year 13.

3 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.

4 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
- 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.

5 MANAGEMENT OF PROVIDER ACCESS REQUESTS

Procedure

A provider wishing to request access should contact:

Mrs Ellen Parry
Senior Assistant Headteacher

Careers Lead
office@stmaryscatholiccollege.org.uk

0151 6397531

6 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.

7 GROUNDS FOR GRANTING OR REFUSING REQUESTS

Access will normally be granted where the proposed activity supports pupils' entitlement to information about approved technical education qualifications or apprenticeships and can be accommodated within the school's careers programme and normal school day. Requests will be considered with regard to the needs and interests of pupils, the timing of existing careers activities, availability of appropriate facilities and staff, safeguarding requirements and avoiding unnecessary duplication of provision.

A request may be refused where it cannot reasonably be accommodated within the school timetable, where the proposed activity does not meet the requirements of Provider Access Legislation, where equivalent provision has already been arranged, or where safeguarding or operational considerations make access inappropriate. Where a request cannot be accommodated, the school will seek, where reasonably possible, to identify an appropriate alternative opportunity.

Provider access will normally take place during the standard school day through timetabled careers activities, assemblies, curriculum or enrichment sessions, careers events and other appropriate opportunities identified within the school's careers programme. Specific dates and times will be agreed between the provider and Careers Lead. All six statutory encounters will take place for a reasonable period during the standard school day.

8 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.

9 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.

10 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

11 APPROVAL AND REVIEW

Approved: September 2026 by the Governors at the Curriculum and Standards Committee
Next review: September 2027