



THE ECCLESBOURNE SCHOOL

Learning Together for the Future

PROVIDER ACCESS POLICY

February 2025

This policy was ratified at the Student and Curriculum Governors meeting in

This policy will be updated yearly

This is a statutory policy

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1 Introduction

This policy statement sets out the school's arrangements for managing the access of providers to 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 which came into force in January 2018. It also complies with the requirements of the Skills Post-16 Education Act 2022 which came into force in January 2023.

2 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 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.

3 Commitment

The Ecclesbourne School is 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 the full range of approved qualifications and apprenticeships available to them. The Ecclesbourne School is fully aware of the responsibility to set students on the path that will secure the best outcome to enable them to progress in education and work. That means acting impartially, in line with statutory duty, and not showing bias towards any route, be that academic or technical.

The Ecclesbourne School 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).

4 Aims

The Ecclesbourne School 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).

5 Student 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;
- 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.

For pupils of compulsory school age these encounters are mandatory and there will be a minimum of two encounters for pupils during the 'first key phase' (year 8 to 9) and two encounters for pupils during the 'second key phase' (year 10 to 11). For pupils in the 'third key phase' (year 12 to 13), particularly those that have not yet decided on their next steps, there are two more provider encounters available during this period, which are optional for pupils to attend.

These provider encounters will be scheduled during the main school hours and the provider will be given a reasonable amount of time to, as a minimum:

- share information about both the provider and the approved technical education qualification and apprenticeships that the provider offers
- explain what career routes those options could lead to
- provide insights into what it might be like to learn or train with that provider (including the opportunity to meet staff and pupils from the provider)
- answer questions from pupils.

6 Meaningful provider encounters

One encounter is defined as one meeting/session between pupils and one provider. We are committed to providing meaningful encounters to all pupils using the 'Making it meaningful checklist'. Meaningful online engagement is also an option, and we are open to providers that are able to provide live online engagement with our pupils.

7 Previous providers

In previous terms/years we have invited the following providers from the local area to speak to our pupils:

- ASK Apprenticeships, Derby College, Nottingham Trent University, University of Sheffield, Sheffield Hallam, Derby University, Confetti Institute, UTC Pride Park.

8 Management of provider access requests

A provider wishing to request access should contact our careers dept via the email:

info@ecclesbourne.derbyshire.sch.uk. Access will be given for providers to attend during school assemblies, post-16 and post-18 options events and timetabled PDC lessons and we will offer providers an opportunity to come into school to speak to pupils or their parents or carers.

Please speak to us using the contact details above to identify the most suitable opportunity for you.

9 Granting and refusing access

Access to the students will only be granted with prior arrangement of the careers team. Education and training providers will be expected to adhere to this policy. In addition, all providers should be given a copy of the School External Speakers Policy 2022 that stipulates expectations from the providers and the providers expectations of the school.

10 Premises and facilities

The Ecclesbourne School will make the sports hall, lecture theatre and classrooms or private meeting rooms available for discussions between the provider and students, as appropriate to the activity. The academy will also make available projectors and other specialist equipment to support provider presentations. This will all be discussed and agreed in advance of the visit with the Head of Careers or a member of the pastoral team. Providers are welcome to leave a copy of their prospectus or other relevant course literature at the school reception.

11 Live / Virtual Encounters

The Ecclesbourne School will consider live online encounters with providers where requested, and these may be broadcast into the sports hall, lecture theatre and classrooms or private meeting rooms. Technology checks in advance will be required to ensure compatibility of systems.

12 Links to other policies

The following policies cover careers and visits to the school by external providers:

- Safeguarding policy
- Careers guidance policy
- Curriculum Policy
- Work Experience Policy
- External Contributors and Speakers Policy

Copies of these policies are available on the school's website.

<https://www.ecclesbourne.derbyshire.sch.uk/school-information/policies>

13 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. The Ecclesbourne School is committed to encouraging all students to make decisions about their future based on impartial information.

14 Parents and Carers

Parental involvement is encouraged, and parents and carers may be invited to attend the events to meet the providers when appropriate.

15 Monitoring arrangements

The school's arrangements for managing the access of education and training providers to students is monitored by Head of Careers. This policy will be reviewed by the School's Leadership Team Annually. At every review, the policy will be approved by the Governing Body of the School.

16 Opportunities for Access

The school offers the six provider encounters required by law (marked in bold text) and a number of additional events, integrated into the school careers programme. We will offer providers an opportunity to come into school to speak to pupils or their parents or carers.

	Autumn Term	Spring Term	Summer Term
Year 8	Careers education during PDC lessons.	Take your child to work day.	e.on Careers and AI talk
Year 9	CIAEG – What are your options. Nottingham Trent University – introduction to Uni talk	Enterprise Day with guest judges from industry. 14+ Launch Assembly. 14+ Options Parents Evening.	EMCCA Pathways Awareness Event.
Year 10	Careers education during PDC lessons.	ASK Apprenticeship Assembly.	Work Experience Week.
Year 11	Career Planning, LMI and applications (PDC lessons) Individual 16+ interview with a Progression Mentor. Post-16 Morning (talks from three providers including Derby College and an apprenticeship provider) as well as our own 6th form. Ask Apprenticeships assembly. How to use Unifrog.	Second individual 16+ interviews with a Progression Mentor.	

Year 12	Employability Unit of Careers PDC lessons	Derby University – University and Apprenticeship Fair Work Experience Week	Post 18 Day including a university talk and an apprenticeship provider talk for all students
Year 13	University, apprenticeship and employer applications (PDC lessons). University Open Days.		