

Provider Access Policy



Name of Owner: Marvin Cox

Date: September 2025

Date of next review: September 2026

**Requires approval
by Governing Body:** Yes

Southgate School: Provider Access Policy

Overview

This policy statement aims to set out our school's arrangements for managing the access of education and training providers to pupils for the purpose of giving them information about their offer.

This policy is shared with all the staff at Southgate School and shared on the school's website for all parents and carers to view. If you have any questions in relation to this policy, please email office@southgateschool.co.uk

We have carefully considered and analysed the impact of this policy on equality and the possible implications for pupils or staff with protected characteristics, as part of our commitment to meet the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) requirement to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations.

Contents

1. Aims
2. Statutory requirements
3. Pupil entitlement
4. Management of provider access requests
5. Links to other policies
6. Monitoring arrangements

4 Aims

This policy statement aims to set out our school's arrangements for managing the access of education and training providers to pupils for the purpose of giving them information about their offer. It sets out:

Procedures in relation to requests for access

The grounds for granting and refusing requests for access

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

5 Statutory requirements

Schools and colleges have a responsibility to set pupils on the path that will secure the best outcome which will enable them to progress in education and work and give employers the highly skilled people they need. That means schools and colleges must act impartially, in line with their statutory duty or contractual requirement, and not show bias towards any route, be that academic or technical.

They should promote a full range of technical options. Schools have an important role in correcting the imbalance in careers information which means that in years 9 and 10 far fewer students have been spoken to about technical choices in comparison to academic routes, and only 4% of young people start an apprenticeship after their GCSEs.

Schools must open their doors to other education and training providers, in line with their statutory responsibilities under the provider access legislation, putting in place a range of opportunities for providers of technical education and apprenticeships to talk to all year 8 to 13 pupils about their education or training offer.

This is vital to ensure that all pupils are aware of the 9 benefits of apprenticeships, T Levels, HTQs and other approved technical education qualifications and can consider them, alongside academic options, when making decisions about their next steps. Further details about what schools must do to comply with the provider access legislation, which include details about the new requirements of the legislation that come into force on 1 January 2023, are on page 40- 53 of the [Education Act 1997](#).

Schools must also have a policy statement that outlines the circumstances in which education and training providers will be given access to these pupils.

This is outlined in section 42B of the [Education Act 1997](#).

This policy shows how our school complies with these requirements.

6 Pupil entitlement

All pupils in years 8 to 11 at Southgate School are entitled to:

Find out about technical education qualifications and apprenticeship opportunities as part of our 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, e.g. through activities and events such as trips, work experience, assemblies and taster events

Understand how to make applications for the full range of academic and technical courses

As a minimum, schools must offer:

- Two encounters with an employer for pupils during the 'first key phase' (year 8 or 9) that are mandatory for all pupils to attend, to take place any time during year 8 or between 1 September and 28 February during year 9.
- Two encounters for pupils during the 'second key phase' (year 10 or 11) that are mandatory for all pupils to attend, to take place any time during year 10 or between 1 September and 28 February during year 11.

At Southgate, we will comply with this requirement and aim to provide above the minimum expectation

4 Management of provider access requests

4.1 Procedures

A provider wishing to request access should contact Marvin Cox, Personal Development Lead

Telephone: 01484 504544

Email: office@southgate.co.uk

4.2 Opportunities for access

A number of events, integrated into our careers programme, will offer providers an opportunity to come into school to speak to pupils and/or their parents/carers. See our Careers Programme for this information. Please speak to our Careers Leader to identify the most suitable opportunity for you. These events will run in line with any measures related to public health incidents.

4.3. Granting and refusing access

A risk assessment will be completed for all internal and external visits. Pupils will always be accompanied.

4.4 Safeguarding

Our safeguarding/child protection policy outlines the school's procedure for checking the identity and suitability of visitors. Education and training providers will be expected to adhere to this policy.

4.5. Premises and facilities

Visitors are able to access shared areas of school when they are accompanied by staff. The school will make available AV and other ICT/ specialist equipment needed.

4.6 The Gatsby Benchmarks

The department expects all secondary schools and colleges to use the internationally recognised Gatsby Benchmarks to develop a careers programme that increases opportunities for students to access everything from experiences of the workplace and personal guidance with a career's adviser, to engagement with employers, colleges, training providers and universities.

The benchmarks are non-statutory but support schools and colleges by providing a framework around which they can develop their careers programme in line with their legal requirements to provide independent careers to pupils throughout their secondary education (11 to 18-year olds) and students aged up to 25 with an Education, Health and Care Plan.

The benchmarks also support schools to fulfil their statutory duty to enable access of training providers to showcase to pupils what technical education and apprenticeships can offer.

5. Links to other policies

Safeguarding and Child Protection policy

Careers Education and Guidance policy

Ensuring a High Quality of Education at Southgate Policy

6. Links to other policies

The school's arrangements for managing the access of education and training providers to pupils are monitored by: This policy will be reviewed by Marvin Cox, Personal Development Lead annually (as recommended by the DfE).

In 2014 the Gatsby report made a major contribution to our understanding of what constitutes quality in careers education, information Advice and Guidance (CEIAG) in schools in England. As a result, eight benchmarks of good practice were drawn up that identify the elements of good careers guidance:

- 1. A stable career's programme**
- 2. Learning from careers and labour market information**
- 3. Addressing the needs of each pupil**
- 4. Linking curriculum learning to careers**
- 5. Encounters with employers and employees**
- 6. Experiences of workplaces**
- 7. Encounters with further higher education**
- 8. Personal guidance**

At every review, the policy will be approved by the Governing board

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