The Oakwood Academy Provider Access Policy 2025-26

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.

Pupil entitlement:

All pupils in years 7 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 year 7 to 9 pupils and two encounters for year 10 to 11 pupils. For pupils in 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

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.

https://resources.careersandenterprise.co.uk/resources/making-it-meaningful-benchmark-7

Previous providers:

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

- Independent Training Providers
- General FE Colleges
- Apprenticeship providers
- University Technical Colleges
- Independent Businesses and Industry workplaces offering advanced and technical qualifications

Destinations of our pupils:

Our 2024 Year 11 pupils moved to a range of providers in the local area after school:

- General FE Colleges
- Independent Training Providers
- Apprenticeship providers
- Sixth forms
- Employment without training

Our 2024 Year 13 pupils moved to a range of providers after school:

- University
- Advanced Apprenticeships
- Full time Employment

Management of provider access requests

Procedure:

A provider wishing to request access should contact Scott McNeill (SLT) and Angie Koppoe (Careers Advisor) who then will consider your request.

Telephone: 0115 953 9353 or Email: s.mcneill@oakwoodacademy.org.uk

The Careers Advisor and Senior Leader will also ensure that students and parents are signposted to relevant website information on providers and will disseminate printed information as required.

Safeguarding

Providers are expected to comply with the academy's safeguarding policy.

DBS checks are not normally required for a 'one-off' academy visit however we may require a level of supervision to take place which will be considered on an individual event basis.

Opportunities for access:

The school offers the six provider encounters required by law. We will offer providers an opportunity to come into school to speak to pupils or their parents or carers. Please speak to our Careers team to identify the most suitable opportunity for you.

Provider Access Delivery Programme

Key Phase	Year Group	Autumn Term	Spring Term	Summer Term
First Key Phase – Legislation requires x 2 encounters to take place by 28th February of Year 9. Mandatory for all pupils to attend and to take place during school day hours.	Year 7/8	**Encounter 1 –** University/ FE College Assembly Introduction		
	Year 9		**Encounter 2** – KS4 Options Event – FE/HE providers in attendance	
Second Key Phase – Legislation requires x 2 encounters to take place by 28th February of Year 11. Mandatory for all pupils to attend and to take place during school day hours.	Year 10			**Encounter 3** – Post 16 Options Event with Further Education including College and Apprenticeship training providers
	Year 11	**Encounter 4** – Post 16 Apprenticeships awareness and Further/Higher Education assembly		
Third Key Phase – Legislation requires x 2 encounters to take place by 28th February if in Year 13. Mandatory for the school to put on but optional for students to attend.	Year 12		**Encounter 5** – University Fair/Event including various Higher Education providers	
	Year 13	**Encounter 6 –** Post 18 Event – UCAS including Higher Education and Degree level Apprenticeship providers		

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. The school will also make available IT and other specialist equipment to support provider presentations. This will all be discussed and agreed in advance of the visit with a member of the Careers team.

Meaningful online engagement is also an option and we are open to providers that are able to provide live online engagement with our pupils.

Providers are welcome to leave a copy of their prospectus or other relevant course literature with the Careers Resource Centre. The Resource Centre is available to all pupils at lunch and break times

Complaints:

Any complaints with regards to provider access can be raised following the school complaints procedure found on the academy website.

Approval and review:

Approved summer term 2025 by Governors at Curriculum and Standards Committee

Next review date: Summer term 2026

Signed: Mr Andy Gilbert (Head teacher)

Signed: Scott McNeill (SLT link)

Signed: Angie Koppoe (Careers Advisor)