

Provider Access Policy Statement

Wednesfield Academy



1. Aims

This policy statement sets 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 options.

It sets out:

- Procedures in relation to requests for access
- The grounds of granting and reusing requests for access
- Details of premises or facilities to be provided to a person who is given access

2. Statutory requirements

Under Section 42B of the Education Act 1997, as of 2 January 2018, we have a duty to provide students in Years 8-13 with access to providers of post-14, post-16 and post-18 education and training. This policy statement sets out how we manage access requests from these providers.

3. Student entitlement

All pupils in Years 7 to 13 at Wednesfield Academy must be allowed to:

- Learn more about technical education qualifications and apprenticeship opportunities, as part of a careers programme which informs students of the full range of education and training options available to them at each transition point.
- Hear from a range of local providers about the opportunities on offer, for example, technical education and apprenticeships – this can be achieved through options evenings, assemblies, group discussions, and taster events.
- Understand how to apply to the full range of academic and technical courses available to them.

These encounters are mandatory and there will be a minimum of two encounters for Year 8 to 9 pupils and two encounters for Year 10 to 11 pupils. For pupils in Year 12 and 13, particularly those who have not yet decided on their next steps, there are two more provider encounters available during this period, which are optional for students to attend.

These provider encounters will be scheduled during the main school hours and the provider will give 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 offer
- Explain what career routes these 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 students from the provider)
- Answer questions from students

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 students.

Previous Providers

In previous years, we have invited the following providers from the local area to speak to our students:

- Nova Training
- Juniper Training
- Ask apprenticeships
- Incomm
- Wolverhampton FE College
- Walsall FE College
- Dudley FE College
- King Edward VI Stourbridge College
- DHL Logistics
- Halesowen College
- Aston University
- Bangor University
- Coventry University
- University College London

- Aberystwyth University

4. Management of provider access requests

4.1 Procedure

Any provider wishing to request access should contact our Strategic Careers Lead, Mrs V Hayward through main reception 01902 558222 or using the following email address: postbox@wednesfieldacademy.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. Please speak to our Strategic Careers Lead to identify the most suitable opportunity for you.

4.3 Granting and refusing access

We will grant access requests that are:

- Submitted within an appropriate time frame (we usually require at least 25 working days' notice) and provide sufficient and appropriate information
- Safeguarding compliant

In line with the school ethos and meet our pupils needs we will refuse any access request that does not:

- Meet the requirements of our safeguarding standards, including those under the Prevent strategy
- Fall in line with our school ethos or meet the needs of our students
- Allow sufficient preparation and planning time
- Appropriately demonstrate a clear rationale and purpose which is of demonstrable benefit to students

Please note that the Headteacher's decision regarding granting access is final.

4.4 Safeguarding

Our Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy and Visitors Policy set out the school's approach to allowing providers into the academy to speak to our students. <https://wednesfieldacademy.com/policies/>

4.5 Premises and facilities

Depending on the nature of the session, providers will have access to presentation rooms or classrooms with audio/ visual equipment, projectors or interactive whiteboards. Organisation of these facilities will take place when you contact the Careers Leader about your proposed session. Providers can

leave materials such as prospectuses for the pupils to read but we kindly ask that this is agreed with the Careers Leader first. Such materials will be assessed for their suitability.

5. Links to other policies

All other relevant policies can be found on the school's website using the link <https://wednesfieldacademy.com/policies/> including:

- Careers Policy
- Child Safeguarding Policy
- Data Protection Policy

6. Monitoring arrangements

The school's arrangements for managing the access of education and training providers to pupils is monitored by H Rehman, Careers Leader.

Wednesfield Academy: Careers Plan Spring 2023 onwards

Strategic Careers Lead: Mrs V Hayward, 01902 558222, postbox@wednesfieldacademy.co.uk

Vision: Our highly ambitious careers curriculum aids all pupils to make confident and well-informed choices to support the next stage of their lives at any stage of their learning.

At Wednesfield Academy, Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance is embedded through all elements of our pupils' lives within the academy. We work hard to ensure that careers education is an integral part of the school to ensure that our vision is met so that we can successfully Change Lives and Shape Futures. We work in partnership with a wide range of employers and education providers to offer an inspiring, supportive and motivational careers programme for everyone. We aim to give every pupil the best chance at progressing onto their chosen career pathway, through an exciting range of careers events that showcase the full range of options available, and by helping pupils to navigate that choice with well-informed, up-to-date and independent advice and guidance.

We offer careers activities to meet everyone's individual needs and allow our pupils to broaden their horizons by meeting new and inspiring people who help us to bring together a careers programme that raises aspirations, challenges stereotypical thinking and promotes equality and diversity.

We take a whole school approach to careers education, with careers support being embedded into the whole curriculum and a pupil's journey through the school from Year 7 to Year 13. The careers programme at Wednesfield Academy goes beyond helping pupils to figure out what their next steps should be; it helps pupils to recognise their own strengths and interests and to continually develop the essential employability and life skills to make successful applications to their chosen pathways.

Below is the plan for our Careers Programme, mapped to the 8 Gatsby Benchmarks of Good Careers Guidance ([Good Career Guidance | Education | Gatsby](#))

Benchmark 1: A stable careers programme

Wednesfield Academy will measure and assess the impact of its own carers programme using the Gatsby Benchmarks and the Compass+ tool, as well as our own internal tracking systems. We will regularly evaluate our programme using opinions from all stakeholders and with support from our Enterprise Advisor.

The Senior Leadership Team and the school improvement team support the careers programme, with the Careers Leader being line managed by a member of the Senior Leadership Team to promote and champion the programme in weekly leadership meetings.

Resources have been allocated to enhance the careers activities we can provide.

A dedicated area of the school's website details useful and up to date information for use by pupils, parents and teachers.

Our Provider Access Policy is also published on our website for the benefit of employers and educational establishments.

Benchmark 2: Learning from careers and labour market information

Pupils will be informed of updated LMI information through Shaping Futures Future Fridays, annually through assemblies and in their individual careers interviews.

A dedicated section of the careers' website page will include LMI and will be updated regularly.

LMI will be included in careers displays in school.

Staff will be kept up to date through annual careers CPD sessions.

Employers invited into school will help to contribute to the delivery of LMI information.

Parents will be updated about LMI information through the school's website and parents' evenings.

Benchmark 3: Addressing the needs of each pupil

Our Careers Programme is designed to support our pupils into the career pathways of their choice. Each student will have tailored advice and support at key transition points.

We aim to raise the aspirations of all our pupils, encouraging them to consider a range of pathways at Post 16 that will help them to access Higher Education, Higher Apprenticeships and Degree Apprenticeships as appropriate.

We challenge career stereotypes through the example set by our visiting employers and through the personal development programme as part of tutor time.

The school will continue to keep accurate records of all our pupils' careers experiences and use their aspirations and interests to help tailor and target future support.

Our rejuvenated Alumni Network will allow us to track the destinations of our pupils and use this information to inform and evaluate our careers programme.

Our SEND pupils will receive targeted support from our Careers Advisor and our Connexions Career Advisor in liaison with the careers lead and the SENCO. Additional support will also be offered where needed, such as sourcing supportive workplace experience opportunities or support with completing application forms.

The number of universities and organisations that the school works with will continue to grow to ensure that underrepresented groups access higher level learning. This will be done in coordination with the strategic lead for Pupil Premium.

Benchmark 4: Linking curriculum learning to careers

We have a whole school approach to careers where careers staff, teachers and pastoral staff help to support our pupils as they navigate and select their career pathways.

Careers education is incorporated into all subjects not just PHSE, English, maths and science.

Key employability skills are incorporated into the medium-term plans of each subject in each year group.

Dedicated Careers Weeks throughout the academic year ensure that a careers link is included in every lesson for every pupil as well as through personal development tutor time.

Each faculty has a dedicated careers display.

Faculties are encouraged to develop links with local employers and universities and use these to create new opportunities for pupils within lessons or for educational visits to workplaces or higher education providers.

An annual CPD session for all teaching staff is dedicated to careers.

Benchmark 5: Encounters with employers and employees

We continue to build a strong network of local employers, many of whom regularly return to support the school each year.

All pupils attend our annual Careers Fair where they meet a range of employers.
A growing proportion of our pupils have the opportunity to take part in events with employers throughout the year.
We have a developing Alumni network which will allow us to facilitate wider variety of encounters for our pupils to enrich their experience further.

Benchmark 6: Experience of workplaces

Year 12 pupils take part in a full week of work experience.
In 2023, all Year 10 pupils have had the opportunity to complete a weeklong work experience placement.
Year 9 pupils have the opportunity to take part in Take Your Child to Work Day in both 2023 and this will run again in 2024.
Pupils are regularly sent virtual work experience opportunities to take part in.
Pupils have the opportunities to take on leading roles within the school, such as Cadets and Sixth Form Council.

Benchmark 7: Encounters with further and higher education

The school continues to build a network including local and national providers and uses these contacts to help inform our pupils of all the options available to them.
All pupils attend our Careers Fair with a full range of options presented: universities, colleges, apprenticeships, employment, training providers and technical education providers.
KS4 and KS5 pupils also attend an additional Pathways Carers Event in the Autumn term.
Tutor sessions and assemblies help pupils to explore their options.
Futures Week in Year 12 supports pupils with understanding their options.
Parents are kept informed through Parents' Evening events and through newsletters, school social media, the school website and via WeDuc.
Some outreach work takes place in the school such as Aston University's: Route into Healthcare and Aberystwyth University.

Benchmark 8: Personal Guidance

Every pupil will have had at least one interview with our Careers Advisers by the end of Year 11.
These sessions are impartial and conducted by staff with professional careers qualifications.
Pupils receive extensive tailored UCAS and Apprenticeships application support.
Targeted careers interviews take place for those with the most need and requests from pastoral staff, tutors and teachers are prioritised.

Approval and review

This policy statement was approved by the Wednesfield Academy AIB as detailed below.

The next review will take place in December 2024.

Signed: _____ Chair of TLAC

Signed: _____ Headteacher