



Provider Access Policy Statement

St Mary's Catholic School Provider Access Policy Statement

Introduction

This policy statement sets out St Mary's Catholic school's arrangements for managing the access of providers to pupils at the school for the purposes 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.

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 employment destinations. This helps students to choose their pathways, improve their life 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 such as T-Levels and Higher Technical Qualifications.

Commitment

St Mary's Catholic School is committed to ensuring there is an opportunity for a range of education and training providers to access students, for the purpose of informing them about approved technical education qualifications and apprenticeships. St Mary's Catholic School is fully aware of the responsibility to set students 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 acting impartially, in line with the statutory duty, and not showing bias towards any route, be that academic or technical.

St Mary's Catholic 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).

Aims

St Mary's Catholic 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).

Student entitlement

St Mary's Catholic School fully supports the statutory requirement for students to have direct access to other providers of further education training, technical training and apprenticeships. The school will comply with the new legal requirement to put on at least six encounters with providers of approved technical education qualifications or apprenticeships. This will be done in assemblies in National Apprenticeship Week and National Careers Week, in addition to providers attending other careers events at school.

Students in years 8-13 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 evenings, assemblies and group discussions and taster events.
- To understand how to make applications for the full range of academic and technical courses.

The Provider Access Legislation specifies schools must provide at least six encounters with approved providers of apprenticeships and technical education for all their students:

- Two encounters for pupils during the 'first key phase' (year 8 or 9) that are mandatory for all pupils to attend
- Two encounters for pupils during the 'second key phase' (year 10 or 11) that are mandatory for all pupils to attend
- Two encounters for pupils during the 'third key phase' (year 12 or 13) that are mandatory for the school to put on but 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. St Mary's Catholic School is committed to providing meaningful encounters to all pupils. Meaningful online engagement is also an option, and we are open to providers that are able to provide live online engagement with our pupils.

Opportunities for access

A number of events including our Careers Carousel, Sixth Form Enrichment Week, National Careers Week and National Apprenticeship week and other personal development events are integrated into the school careers programme. Our events offer providers an opportunity to come into school to speak to pupils and/or their parents: Please email our named Careers Leader at: info@stmarys.net to identify the most suitable opportunity for you. The school policy visitor's policy on the school website sets out the school's approach to allowing providers into school as visitors to talk to our students.

Management of provider access requests

Development

This policy has been developed and is reviewed annually by the Careers Leader and Line Manager (**Jo Knight and Catherine Wilkin**) based on current good practice guidelines by the Department for Education.

Links with other policies

It supports and is underpinned by key school policies including those for Careers, Child Protection, Equality and Diversity, and SEND.

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. St Mary's Catholic School is committed to encouraging all students to make decisions about their future based on impartial information.

Grounds for granting requests for access

Access will be given for providers to attend during school assemblies, timetabled Careers or Life lessons, and Careers or Raising Aspirations events that St Mary's Catholic School is arranging. Students may also travel to visit another provider as part of the trip to be organised in partnership with **St Mary's Catholic School**.

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

St Mary's Catholic School will provide an appropriate room or assembly hall to be agreed. All rooms have computers, projectors and screens provided. Computer rooms can also be arranged. The Careers Leader or Line Manager will organise this, working closely with the provider to ensure the facilities are appropriate to the audience. Appropriate safeguarding checks will be carried out. Providers will be met and supervised by a member of the Careers Team who will facilitate.

Live/Virtual encounters



ST MARY'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL

St Mary's Catholic School will consider live online encounters with providers where requested, and these may be broadcast into classrooms or the school assembly hall. Technology checks in advance will be required to ensure compatibility of systems.

Parents and Carers

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

Requests for Access

Requests for access should be directed to **Jo Knight**, Careers Leader. **Jo Knight** may be contacted by telephone or email, **j.knight@stmarys.net**, Tel **01279 654901 ext. 258**.

Complaints Procedure

Any complaints about this policy should be raised to **Heads PA** email: **headspa@stmarys.net**,

Heads PA will raise the complaint to **Deirdre McHugh**, **Head Teacher of St Mary's Catholic School**.

Review

School Education Committee

Date of review: January 2026

Next Review Date: January 2027