
Meadowhead School Academy Trust

Provider Access Policy Statement

(to include The Department of Education, July 2021: “Baker Clause”
and the Provider Access Legislation, January 2023)



**This is a policy of Meadowhead School Academy Trust.
Meadowhead School is a Foundation School
and a member of the
Meadowhead Community Learning Trust**

Staff Responsible: Cerys Evans, Careers Leader
David Sheppard, Assistant Headteacher – Personal Development
Created: August 2017, updated February 2023 Approved by Governors Feb 23
Next Review: February 2024

Provider Access Policy

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.

Meadowhead 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. Meadowhead 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.

Meadowhead 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

Meadowhead 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

Meadowhead 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:

- 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

This will be delivered through assemblies, form time or Ethics careers sessions, in addition to providers attending careers events during Futures Week.

Development

This policy has been developed and is reviewed annually by Cerys Evans, Careers Leader, and David Sheppard, Assistant Headteacher, based on current good practice guidelines by the Department for Education.

Links with other policies

This policy 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. Meadowhead School is committed to encouraging all students to make decisions about their future based on impartial information.

Requests for access

Requests for access should be directed to Cerys Evans, Careers Leader who may be contacted by telephone or email, 0114 2372723 ext 763 or evansc@meadowhead.sheffield.sch.uk.

To promote the quality and consistency of provider encounters, the legislation includes a new set of minimum information that the school must ask the provider to give pupils:

- information about the provider and the approved technical education qualifications or apprenticeships that the provider offers
- information about the careers to which those technical education qualifications or apprenticeships might lead
- a description of what learning or training with the provider is like
- responses to questions from the pupils about the provider or approved technical education qualifications and apprenticeships.

Grounds for granting requests for access

Access will be given for providers to attend during school assemblies, timetabled careers lessons or careers events that Meadowhead School is arranging.

Providers should contact the Careers Leader to identify the most suitable opportunity for access.

Reasons for declining requests

The school reserves the right to decline requests for a number of reasons, including (but not restricted to) the following:

- if the provider's input would not be relevant to a particular event
- if such attendance would provide an imbalanced view of available provision
- if the request is not timely.

In such cases, the Careers Leader (who supports the delivery of impartial Careers Education,

Information, Advice and Guidance [CEIAG] across the school) would inform the provider of this decision and the reason why.

If the provider wishes to appeal this decision, they can contact the Assistant Head with responsibility for Personal Development. If the provider wishes to appeal the decision received from the Assistant Head, they should contact the Chair of Governors at the school.

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

Meadowhead School will provide an appropriate room or assembly hall to be agreed. All rooms have computers, projectors and screens provided. The Careers Leader will organise this, working closely with the provider to ensure the facilities are appropriate to the audience. Providers will be asked to share their presentation in advance of the event. 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

Meadowhead 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, where appropriate, parents will be invited to attend events to meet providers.

Management

The Careers Leader coordinates all provider requests and is responsible to David Sheppard, Assistant Headteacher.

Complaints Procedure

Any complaints about this policy should be raised to David Sheppard, Assistant Headteacher.

Monitoring, Evaluation & Review

This policy was formally approved by the Governing Body on: _____

This policy will be monitored and reviewed on an annual basis, to ensure that current legislation and best practice is recorded

Chair of Governors _____ Date _____

Headteacher _____ Date _____

Review Date _____

Appendix

Providers who have been invited into Meadowhead School to date include:

AMRC Training Centre

Sheffield College

Chesterfield College

Sheffield Hallam University

CTS

Sheffield United Community College

Lifeskills

University of Huddersfield

MPCT/Learning Curve Group

University of Sheffield

National Horseracing College

UTC Sheffield

Opportunity Sheffield

White Rose Beauty Colleges