



Provider Access Policy

Introduction

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 8 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 pupils during the 'first key phase' (year 8 to 9) and two encounters for pupils during the 'second key phase' (year 10 to 11).

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](#).

Meaningful online engagement is also an option, and we are open to providers that are able to provide live online engagement with our pupils. Previous providers in previous years we have invited the following providers from the local area to speak to our pupils:

- Abbeygate Sixth Form College
- AFC Sudbury
- Colchester Institute
- Colchester Sixth Form College
- Haverhill Community Sixth Form
- Long Road Sixth Form College
- The New Croft
- St Benedict's Catholic School
- Stoke College
- Thomas Gainsborough School
- University of East Anglia
- University of Suffolk
- West Suffolk Apprenticeships
- West Suffolk College
- West Suffolk Training
- Wymondham College

Destinations of our pupils

Last year our year 11 pupils moved to range of providers in the local area after school including:

- Abbeygate Sixth Form College
- Cambridge Regional College
- Colchester Institute
- Colchester Sixth Form College
- Hills Road Sixth Form College
- Long Road Sixth Form College
- Saffron Walden County High School
- St Benedict's Catholic School
- Suffolk New College
- Thomas Gainsborough School
- West Suffolk College

Students also entered into apprenticeships with a range of providers.

Management of provider access requests

Procedure

A provider wishing to request access should contact Lauren Howard, Head of PSHE
Telephone: 01787 279342 Email: lhoward@stourvalley.org

Or

Nathan Sims, Assistant Headteacher
Telephone: 01787 279342 Email: nsims@stourvalley.org

Opportunities for access

The school offers the six provider encounters required by law and a number of additional events, integrated into the school careers programme. We will offer providers an opportunity to come into school to speak to pupils or their parents or carers.

We offer a post-16 options evening in September for year 11 to which providers will be invited. In addition we offer virtual sessions with year 11 during tutor time. We also have offer enrichment days throughout the year which is also an opportunity for providers to speak to students.

Please speak to our Careers Leaders to identify the most suitable opportunity for you.

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 AV and other specialist equipment to support provider presentations. This will all be discussed and agreed in advance of the visit with the Careers Leader or a member of their 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 Leader or other school staff. These are kept in the school library which can be accessed by all students at break and lunchtimes.

Safeguarding

All visitors are expected to have due regard to safeguarding. We believe it is the responsibility of all visiting adults to take an interest in the welfare of our students. If visitors are concerned about any student or adult then please ask to speak to

someone about safeguarding. All visitors without evidence of a current DBS check will be accompanied by a member of staff at all times whilst on the school premises.

Monitoring and review

The Governing Body will be responsible for reviewing this policy annually. Any changes will be made in line with legislation.

Ratified by Governing Body	SVCS LGB
Date	17 December 2024