



Outcomes
First Group

PROVIDER ACCESS POLICY (CAREERS)

Policy Folder: Education

Oakham Shires School

PROVIDER ACCESS POLICY (CAREERS)

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1.0 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.

2.0 Commitment

Oakham Shires 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. Oakham Shires 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.

We endeavour 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).

3.0 Aims

Oakham Shires 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).
- To understand how to make applications for the full range of academic and technical courses.

4.0 Student Entitlement

Oakham Shires School 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 lessons and group meetings and in addition to providers attending careers events at school.

In line with the Provider Access Legislation, these six encounters are structured across three key phases, each with two different approved providers:

- Two encounters during the first key phase (Year 8 or Year 9), mandatory for all pupils to attend;
- Two encounters during the second key phase (Year 10 or Year 11), mandatory for all pupils to attend;
- Two encounters during the third key phase (Year 12 or Year 13), mandatory for the school to put on but optional for pupils to attend.

Within each key phase, encounters will be arranged with two different providers so that pupils are not repeatedly hearing from the same organisation. Records of encounters by year group and provider will be kept by the Careers Lead and reported to the Senior Leadership Team as part of the school's Gatsby Benchmark 7 monitoring.

5.0 Development

This policy has been developed and is reviewed annually by the Careers Leader and Line Manager based on current good practice guidelines by the Department for Education.

6.0 Links with other policies

It supports and is underpinned by key school policies including those for Careers, Child Protection, Equality and Diversity, and SEND. This policy should be read alongside the school's Careers Policy, which sets out the wider careers curriculum, including the Career Planning & Enterprise (CPE) scheme of work, into which these provider encounters feed.

7.0 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. Oakham Shires School is committed to encouraging all students to make decisions about their future based on impartial information.

8.0 Requests for access should be directed to

Name: **Julia Hinks** Role: **SENCO/Careers Lead**

Email: julia.hinks@theshires.org.uk Tel: 01572 720357

Any resources can be sent to:

Careers Lead, Oakham Shires School, 3 Uppingham Road, Oakham, LE15 6JB

9.0 Opportunities for access

Oakham Shires School offers a range of careers opportunities for its students. Please speak to our Careers Lead to identify the most suitable opportunity for you.

10.0 Grounds for granting requests for access

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

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

Oakham Shires School will provide an appropriate room to be agreed. The Careers Lead 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.

As an autism specialist setting, Oakham Shires School will brief providers in advance on pupils' communication and sensory needs, and will share pre-visit information (such as a visual schedule or social story) where this will help pupils prepare. Encounters will be delivered in a format, environment and group size appropriate to the audience, with reasonable adjustments made in line with individual EHCP outcomes.

12.0 Live/Virtual encounters

Oakham Shires 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.

13.0 Parents and Carers

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

14.0 Management

The Careers Lead coordinates all provider requests and is responsible to **their** senior management line manager.

15.0 Complaints Procedure

Any complaints about this policy should be raised to Julia Hinks – julia.hinks@theshires.org.uk who will raise the complaint to Michelle Jordan, Headteacher Oakham Shires School.



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