

Provider Access Policy Statement

1. Aims

This policy statement aims to set out Invested Education's arrangements for managing the access of education and training providers including technical education providers to students for the purpose of giving them information about their offer. It sets out:

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

2. Statutory Requirements

Schools are required to ensure that there is an opportunity for a range of education and training providers to access students in years 8 to 13 for the purposes of informing them about approved technical education, qualifications or apprenticeships.

Schools must provide a minimum of 6 encounters with technical education or training providers to all pupils in years 8 to 13 (see more detail in section 2.1 below).

Schools must also have a policy statement that outlines the circumstances in which education and training providers will be given access to these students.

This is outlined in section 42B of the Education Act 1997 the Skills and Post 16 Education Act 2022 and on page 43 of guidance from the Department for Education DfE on Careers Guidance and Access for education and training providers.

This policy shows how our school complies with these requirements.

2.1 The 6 encounters schools must offer to all students in years 8 to 13

Through the Skills and Post-16 Education Act 2022 we have made further provision as to the number of provider encounters that schools must offer and when, and set new parameters around the duration and content of each encounter.

All maintained schools and academies must provide six encounters with a provider of technical education or apprenticeships for year 8 to 13 pupils. We have timed these six meetings to inform consideration of post-14, post-16 and post-18 options and progression to the next stage of education or training.

As a minimum, schools must offer:

- Two encounters for pupils during the 'first key phase' (year 8 or 9) that are mandatory for all pupils to attend, to take place any time during year 8 or between 1 September and 28 February during year 9.

- Two encounters for pupils during the ‘second key phase’ (year 10 or 11) that are mandatory for all pupils to attend, to take place any time during year 10 or between 1 September and 28 February during year 11.
- 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, to take place any time during year 12 or between 1 September and 28 February during year 13

These encounters must happen for a reasonable period during the standard school day. Schools can continue to provide complementary experiences but encounters outside of school hours won’t count towards these requirements.

Schools must ask each provider to provide the following as a minimum:

- Information about the provider and the approved qualifications or apprenticeships they offer
- Information about what careers those qualifications and apprenticeships can lead to
- What learning or training with the provider is like
- Answers to any questions from pupils

Invested Education will ensure that every provider encounter covers these elements and will seek to check presentations or handouts intended for the day will be subject to an audit before the encounter.

2.2. Meaningful Provider Encounters

Invested Education is committed to providing meaningful encounters to all pupils.

1 encounter is defined as 1 meeting/session between pupils and 1 provider. Meaningful live online encounter engagement is also an option at Invested Education.

3. Student Entitlement

All students in years 8 -11 at Invested Education 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.
- Hear from a range of local providers about the opportunities they offer, including technical education and apprenticeships – through activities, events, assemblies and group discussions and taster sessions.
- Understand how to make applications for the full range of academic and technical courses.

4. Management of provider access requests

4.1. Procedure

A provider wishing to request access should contact Sara O’Grady, Careers Lead

Telephone: 01642 502224

Email: sara.ogrady@invested-education.com

4.2. Opportunities for access

The school offers a comprehensive Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance programme and an overview of this programme can be seen on the school website. We also host career events and talks where external speakers including providers will come into lessons and make the link between the curriculum and careers.

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

4.3. Premises and Facilities

The school will make a suitable space available for discussions between the provider and students, as appropriate to the activity. The school will also make available ICT and other specialist equipment to support provider presentations. This will all be discussed and agreed in advance of the visit with the Careers Lead or a member of their team.

Providers are welcome to leave a copy of their prospectus or other relevant course literature with the Careers Lead so that they can be displayed in the school library.

4.4. Safeguarding

Invested Education's Safeguarding and Child Protection policies outline Invested Education's procedure for checking the identity and suitability of visitors.

Education and training providers will be expected to always adhere to these policies.

5. Monitoring Arrangements

Invested Education's arrangements for managing the access of education and training providers to students are monitored by Sara O'Grady Careers Lead.

This policy will be reviewed by Sara O'Grady annually.

At every review with policy will be approved by the Proprietor.