



# Provider Access Policy

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<b>Written by</b>	<b>Roger Williams</b>
<b>Approved by</b>	<b>Teaching &amp; Learning Committee</b>
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## Introduction and Aims

This policy statement sets out the school's arrangements for managing access of providers to pupils at the school for the purpose of giving them information about the provider's education, training or employment offer. This complies with the school's legal obligations under Section 42B of the Education Act 1997.

## Provider Access

### Pupil Entitlement

All pupils in Year 8 – 14 are entitled to:

- Find out about technical education qualifications and apprenticeship opportunities appropriate to their abilities and skills, as part of a careers programme which provides information on the full range of education and training options available at each transition point.
- Learn from a range of local providers about the opportunities they offer, including technical education, apprenticeships, traineeships and supported internships, through link provision courses, taster events/days, work experience opportunities and provision specific to the students' outcomes as stated in their EHCP.
- Understand how to make applications for the full range of academic and technical courses.

Ivel Valley School and College recognises the significant role parents and carers have in supporting their young people to make decisions about their adult life, as such, it is equally important that parents/ carers are provided with information about the full range of education and training options available at each transition point.

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). For students in the 'third key phase' (year 12 to 14), particularly those who have not yet decided on their next steps, there are two more provider encounters available during this period, which are optional for students to attend.

These provider encounters will be scheduled during the main school/college hours and the provider will be given a reasonable amount of time to, as a minimum:

- share information about both the provider and appropriate courses
- 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.

### Management of provider access requests

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 terms/years we have invited the following providers from the local area to speak to our pupils:

- North Hertfordshire College
- Bedford College
- Sense College
- Heywood House
- Youth Inspired

## Destinations of our learners

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

- Central Bedfordshire College
- Ivel Valley College

Last year our year 14 students moved to a range of providers in the local area after college:

- Sense College
- North Hertfordshire College
- Heywood House
- Bedford College
- Social Care

## Management of provider access requests

A provider wishing to request access should contact Roger Williams (Careers Leader) on:

01767 601010 [roger.williams@ivelvalley.beds.sch.uk](mailto:roger.williams@ivelvalley.beds.sch.uk)

## Opportunities for Access

A number of events, integrated into students' individualised curriculums (as defined by their EHCP and informed by the school's careers programme) offer an opportunity to providers to come into school and speak to students and/or their parents/carers. We offer the six provider encounters required by law **during our annual careers week** and supplemented by a number of additional events, integrated into the school careers programme. We will offer providers an opportunity to come into school to speak to students or their parents or carers.

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

- Where agreed as appropriate to students, the school can facilitate bespoke sessions about further education, training and employment options in partnership with the provider.
- Small group 1:1 sessions delivered to students as part of their individualised curriculum.
- An annual information, advice and guidance session for parents/carers and students.
- Where agreed with parents/carers and students, providers to assess the needs of the student and whether they can be met by the provider.

## Premises and Facilities

The school will make the main hall, classrooms or meeting rooms available for activities, events or meetings as appropriate to the activity and student group. Wherever possible, the school will make available specialist equipment



to support providers' present activities or events. This will be discussed and agreed in advance of the visit with the Transitions Coordinator, another member of the Preparing for Adulthood Team or a member of The Senior Leadership 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 literature with the School (Transitions Coordinator) who will make it available to students, staff and parents/carers.

## Complaints

Any complaints with regards to provider access can be raised following the school complaints procedure detailed on our website.

## Legal Framework & Statutory Guidance

The most recent relevant guidance came out in January 2023:

[Careers guidance and access for education and training providers \(DfE, updated 23rd Jan 2023\)](#)

## Links with other policies

- Data Protection policy
- Educational Visits Policy

## Equalities and Inclusion

No pupil, member of staff or volunteer will be prevented from participating in activities due to a protected characteristic as defined by the Equality Act 2010. All activities are evaluated for accessibility and inclusion and we will always consider reasonable adjustments as some pupils will require some additional support to access these opportunities.

[Equality Act 2010](#)

## Safeguarding Implications

The planning and preparation of all provide access opportunities must include measures to safeguard children, young people and accompanying staff from harm. Addressing safeguarding concerns and/or needs will always take precedence when organising provider access. Any providers accessing IVSC will be accompanied in keeping with our safeguarding procedures and any visits to providers will be supervised and risk assessed and conducted in accordance with our educational visits policy.