Provider Access Policy

Date	March 2026
Written By	Roger Williams
Approved By	Full Governing Body
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This policy applies to all stakeholders within Ivel Valley School & College

Introduction and Aims

This policy statement outlines Ivel Valley School and College's arrangements for managing access of providers to pupils for the purpose of sharing information about education, training, and employment opportunities. It complies with Section 42B of the Education Act 1997, the Skills and Post-16 Education Act 2022, and the Department for Education's (DfE) *Careers Guidance and Access for Education and Training Providers* (updated 8th May 2025). This policy supports Gatsby Benchmarks 7 (Encounters with Further and Higher Education) and 8 (Personal Guidance) to ensure high-quality careers provision tailored to our pupils' needs.

Pupil Entitlement

All pupils in Years 8–14 are entitled to:

- Explore technical education qualifications, apprenticeships, traineeships, supported internships, and other opportunities appropriate to their abilities and skills, as part of a careers programme providing information on the full range of options at each transition point.
- Engage with local providers to learn about their offerings through link provision courses, taster events, work experience, and bespoke sessions aligned with EHCP outcomes.
- Understand application processes for academic and technical courses.

Recognising the vital role of parents/carers in supporting decision-making, we ensure they receive information about education, training, and employment options at each transition point, including post-19 pathways where relevant.

For pupils of compulsory school age, two mandatory provider encounters are offered during the 'first key phase' (Years 8–9) and two during the 'second key phase' (Years 10–11). For students in the 'third key phase' (Years 12–14), particularly those undecided on next steps, two optional encounters are available. These encounters may include providers offering post-19 options such as supported internships or employment pathways.

Provider encounters occur during school/college hours, with providers given sufficient time to:

- Share details about their offerings and appropriate courses.
- Explain potential career routes, including emerging areas like green and digital skills.
- Offer insights into learning or training with them, including staff/pupil interactions.
- Answer pupil questions.

The school maintains a record of provider encounters on Compass+ to ensure compliance and to evaluate impact.

Work Experience

We provide work experience opportunities tailored to each year group:

Years 7 to 9**:** Students will experience one week's worth of work experience activities. These don't need to be traditional placements – instead, they might include:

- Multi-day work visits where students complete tasks or projects set by employers
- Work shadowing opportunities

- Employer talks at workplaces, including technical demonstrations or site tours (either in person or virtual)

These activities will be varied and employer led. They can be individual experiences or group activities (such as enterprise projects), and will be mainly in person, though some virtual elements may be included.

Years 10 and 11**:** Students will complete one week's worth of work experience placements. These placements will be tailored to each student's EHCP outcomes and abilities, and will be in person wherever possible.

All work experience will be carefully planned to match students' individual needs, career aspirations, and EHCP goals, ensuring each experience is meaningful and accessible.

Management of Provider Access Requests

An encounter is defined as one meeting/session between pupils and one provider. We use the *Making it Meaningful* checklist to ensure quality. Meaningful online engagement (e.g., webinars, virtual tours) is an option, adapted for accessibility (e.g., captioned content, interactive formats) to meet pupils' needs.

Previous Providers

In recent years, we have welcomed:

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

Destinations of Our Learners

In 2025, Year 11 pupils transitioned to:

- North Herts College
- Ivel Valley College
- Huntingdon Regional College
- Oak Bank School
- Employment

Year 14 students moved to:

- North Hertfordshire College
- Oaklands College
- Self-Employment
- SSG Community College

Multi-year trends are reviewed annually to inform provider invitations.

Management of Provider Access Requests

Providers should contact Roger Williams (Careers Leader) at:
01767 601010 | roger.williams@ivelvalley.beds.sch.uk

Opportunities for Access
Provider encounters are integrated into pupils' individualised curricula (per EHCPs) and the school's careers programme. We meet the six legally required encounters during our annual careers week, supplemented by:

- Bespoke sessions on further education, training, and employment options (e.g., green/digital skills providers where relevant).
- Small group or 1:1 sessions tailored to EHCP outcomes.
- Annual information, advice, and guidance (IAG) sessions for parents/carers and pupils.
- Needs assessments by providers, with parental/student consent.

Contact our Careers Leader to identify suitable opportunities. Feedback from pupils, parents, and providers is collected post-encounter to refine future provision.

Granting and Refusing Access
We aim to grant access where possible, but may refuse based on:

- Nature of the request
- Student needs and curriculum priorities
- Number/frequency of requests per provider/cohort
- Timing, availability, or prior interaction quality
- Safeguarding check failures

Each request is assessed case-by-case.

Premises and Facilities
The main hall, classrooms, or meeting rooms are available, with specialist equipment provided where feasible (arranged with the Transitions Coordinator, Preparing for Adulthood Team, or Senior Leadership Team). Online engagement is supported with accessibility adaptations. Providers may leave prospectuses with the Transitions Coordinator for distribution to pupils, staff, and parents/carers.

Complaints
Follow the school's complaints procedure on our website.

Legal Framework & Statutory Guidance
This policy adheres to *Careers Guidance and Access for Education and Training Providers* (DfE, updated January 2023).

Links with Other Policies

- Data Protection Policy
- Educational Visits Policy
- Online Safety Policy

Equalities and Inclusion
Under the Equality Act 2010, no pupil, staff member, or volunteer is excluded due to protected characteristics. Activities are evaluated for accessibility, with reasonable adjustments made to ensure all pupils can participate.

Safeguarding Implications
Safeguarding is paramount. Providers are accompanied per our safeguarding procedures, and off-site visits are supervised, risk-assessed, and conducted per our Educational Visits Policy.

Sustainability Implications
Ivel Valley School and College is committed to promoting sustainable futures for our pupils. Provider encounters will prioritize opportunities that align with environmental sustainability, such as training in green skills (e.g., renewable energy, conservation) or employment with eco-conscious organisations, where relevant to pupils' EHCP outcomes and abilities. When planning encounters, we consider the environmental impact of travel and resource use, favouring local providers and digital engagement where practical. This reflects our broader commitment to preparing pupils for a sustainable world while supporting their individual aspirations.