



PROVIDER ACCESS POLICY STATEMENT

Including The Department of Education, July 2021: “Baker Clause” and the Provider Access Legislation, January 2023

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Introduction

Fountains High School provides a relevant and engaging careers curriculum which meets the differing needs and requirements of our students. This is developed throughout a student's time at the school and is always supportive of their abilities, strengths and skills.

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.

Commitment

Fountains High 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. Fountains High 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.

Fountains High School endeavours 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).

Aims

Fountains High 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).

Statutory requirements and recommendations

The careers provision at Fountains High School is in line with the statutory guidance developed by the Department for Education, which refers to Section 42A and 45A of the Education Act 1997. This states that all schools should provide independent careers guidance from Years 7 -13 and that this guidance should:

- be impartial
 - include information on a range of pathways, including apprenticeships
 - be adapted to the needs of the pupil

In addition, the school is compliant with the careers guidance that the government set out for delivery from 5 January 2018: 'Careers Guidance and Inspiration for young people in schools.' This states that all schools must give education and training providers the opportunity to talk to students about approved technical qualifications and apprenticeships. Further information relating to this is set out later in this document, under Provider Access.

Student Entitlement

Fountains High School fully 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 and lessons throughout the year, during our school careers week and in National Careers Week, in addition to providers attending careers events at school and students visiting work settings and colleges.

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

Development

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

Links with other policies

It supports and is underpinned by key school policies including those for Careers, Child Protection, Equality and Diversity, and SEND.

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. Fountains High School is committed to encouraging all students to make decisions about their future based on impartial information.

Requests for access

Requests for access should be directed to Daniel Birkin, Interim Careers Leader. Daniel Birkin may be contacted by telephone or email, dbirkin@fountains.staffs.sch.uk, Tel 01283 247580.

Grounds for granting requests for access

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

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

Fountains High School will provide an appropriate room or assembly hall to be agreed. All rooms have computers, projectors and screens provided. Computer rooms can also be arranged. The Careers Leader 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.

Live/Virtual encounters

Fountains High 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.

Parents and Carers

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

Management

The Careers Leader coordinates all provider requests and is responsible to his/her senior management line manager.

Complaints Procedure

Any complaints about this policy should be raised to Beverley Rowley, email: browley@fountains.staffs.sch.uk

Beverley Rowley will raise the complaint to Gareth Allen, Executive Head.

Monitoring review and evaluation

The Policy is monitored and evaluated annually via the Executive Leadership Team.

Policy Coordinator: Beverley Rowley

Policy Reviewed: April 2024

Appendix

Providers who have been invited into Fountains High School to date include:

- Burton and South Derbyshire College
- National Forest
- Burton Albion Community Trust
- Hobbycraft
- Nestle
- Project Search
- Newlife
- Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service

Destinations of previous pupils from Fountains High School include:

- Burton and South Derbyshire College
- South Staffs College-Rodbaston College, Lichfield College
- Portland College
- Chameleon School of Construction
- New Leaf Alternative Provision
- Elite Training Group Alternative Educational Provision
- Bladon House
- Peak Education
- Social Care
- Strathmore College
- Regent College
- Project Search
- Employment- First Choice Cash and Carry, Morrisons
- Derby College- Broomfield Hall