



Provider Access Policy Statement

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An academy within:



“Learning together, to be the best we can be”



1. Rationale

- 1.1. At The Willows School, we recognise that 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.
- 1.2. As the number of apprenticeships rises every year, it becomes increasingly important that all our young people have a full understanding of all the options available to them post-16 and post-18 including Supported Internships and wider technical education options such as T-Levels and Higher Technical Qualifications.

2. Commitment

- 2.1. The Willows 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. The Willows School is fully aware of the responsibility to set students on the path that will secure the best outcomes 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.
- 2.2. The Willows 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).

3. Aims

- 3.1. The Willows 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).

4. Student Entitlement

4.1. The Willows 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 by inviting providers to attend careers events, parents' evenings and careers lessons at school.

4.2. All students in Years 8-14 are entitled to:

- Two encounters during the 'first key phase' (year 8 or 9) that are mandatory for all students to attend;
- Two encounters for students during the 'second key phase' (year 10 or 11) that are mandatory for all students to attend;
- Two encounters during the 'third key phase' (year 12, 13 or 14) that are mandatory for the school to put on but optional for students to attend.

5. Development

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

6. Links with other policies

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

7. Equality and Diversity

7.1. Access to other providers is available and promoted to allow all students to access information about other providers of further education and apprenticeships. The Willows School is committed to encouraging all students to make decisions about their future based on impartial information.



8. Requests for access

- 8.1. Requests for access should be directed to Charlotte Stewart, Careers Leader. Charlotte Stewart may be contacted by telephone or email:

Email: cstewart@nexusmat.org Tel: 01709 542539.

9. Grounds for granting requests for access

- 9.1. A number of events, integrated into the school careers programme, will offer providers an opportunity to come in to school to speak to students and /or their parents/carers and staff. Access will be given for providers to attend during school assemblies, timetabled Careers or Preparing for Adulthood lessons, and careers events that The Willows School is arranging. Students may also travel to visit another provider as part of the trips to be organised in partnership with The Willows School and Nexus MAT. Providers are welcome to speak with our Careers Leader, Charlotte Stewart, to identify the most suitable opportunity. Providers are also welcome to leave a copy of their prospectus or other relevant course literature in school.

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

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

11. Live/Virtual encounters:

- 11.1. The Willows School will consider live online encounters with providers where requested, and these may be broadcast into classrooms or the school assembly hall. The school will make available AV and other specialist equipment to support provider presentations. This will all be discussed and agreed in advance of the visit with the Careers Leader or a member of their team. Technology checks in advance will be required to ensure compatibility of systems.



12. Parents and Carers

- 12.1. Parental/Carer involvement is encouraged, and parents/carers may be invited to attend the events to meet the providers.

13. Management

- 13.1. The Careers Leader coordinates all provider requests and is responsible to the Headteacher.

14. Complaints Procedure

- 14.1. Any complaints about this policy should be raised to Charlotte Stewart, Head of Upper School/Careers Leader

Email: cstewart@nexusmat.org

Charlotte Stewart will raise the complaint to Rachael Booth, Headteacher of The Willows School.

15. Monitoring review and evaluation

- 15.1. The Policy is monitored and evaluated annually via the Senior Leadership Team.

Policy Coordinator: Charlotte Stewart



Appendix

Providers who have been invited into The Willows School to date

include:

DWP

Landmarks Specialist College

Rotherham College

The ROC – Supported Internships

Project Search – Supported Internships

Forest View

Destinations of previous pupils from The Willows School

include:

Landmarks Specialist College

Rotherham College – Dearne Valley and

Town Centre campuses

The ROC – Supported Internships

Project Search – Supported Internships

Sheffield College – Peaks campus

Hilltop @ Forest View

Kelford @ Forest View

Enterprise Works

Morthyng