

Provider Access Policy Statement

Date reviewed: September 2026

Date of next review: September 2027



Introduction

This policy statement sets out the school's arrangements for managing the access of providers to the school for the purpose of giving them information about the provider's education or training offer. This complies with the school's legal obligations under Section 42B of the Education Act 1997 and the updated provider access legislation (PAL) from Jan 2023.

Pupil entitlement

All pupils in years 8 to 11 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;
- to hear from a range of local providers about the opportunities they offer, including technical education and apprenticeships – through options events, assemblies and group discussions and taster events;
- to understand how to make applications for the full range of academic and technical courses.
- to have meaningful and varied encounters and experiences with employers and employees as well as workplaces.

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). These are to include work experience as part of the strengthened Gatsby benchmarks.

These provider encounters, other than work experience, 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.

Meaningful provider encounters

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.

Management of provider access requests

Procedure

A provider wishing to request access should contact Melanie Barnard, Assistant Headteacher, by email at the following address:

melanie.barnard@rastrick.polarismat.org.uk

Opportunities for access

Rastrick offers the six provider encounters required by law between Years 8-13 (marked in bold text below) and a number of additional events, integrated into the school careers programme. We will offer providers an opportunity to come into school to speak to pupils or their parents or carers.

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

Year group	Curriculum focus through PSHE lessons	Additional opportunities
7	- Exploring a range of different career types, including vocational routes such as BTECs, T-Levels and apprenticeships - Enterprise skills and developing skills in working as a team	STEM enrichment opportunities linked to different careers
8	- Equality of opportunity in careers - Setting goals - Different patterns and types of work including vocational routes such as BTECs, T-Levels and apprenticeships	STEM enrichment opportunities linked to different careers including visits to specific events
9	- Developing knowledge on different career paths linked to the Options process - Considering your own strengths and using them to support the Options process	Options process with assemblies and information given about and by employers. External speakers doing assemblies on STEM careers and apprenticeships - Videos on the website about vocational course options in school - Opportunities for students to access the careers fair - STEM enrichment opportunities linked to different careers
10	- Opportunities in STEM careers - What employers are looking for online - Responsibilities in the workplace.	Mock interviews with a range of local and national employers Careers Fair with access to a range of local and national employers and higher education providers Assemblies and talks from a range of employers and higher education providers

		• Visits to workplaces and higher education establishments • Work experience for a small cohort in 2026-27 and full year group in 2027-28 • Meeting with our Careers Advisor (C and K Careers) who will signpost additional bespoke opportunities • Enrichment opportunities linked to different careers • Opportunities to volunteer as part of the Duke of Edinburgh Bronze award
11	• Application processes • Skills for further education and careers • More in depth knowledge about the variety of options available to pupils as their next steps and the benefits of each pathway to support pupils in making informed choices	• Assemblies and talks from a range of employers and higher education providers • Meeting with our Careers Advisor (C and K Careers) who will signpost additional bespoke opportunities • Visits to workplaces and higher education establishments • STEM enrichment opportunities linked to different careers

Premises and facilities

The school will make the main hall, classrooms or private meeting rooms available for discussions between the provider and pupils, as appropriate to the activity. The school will also 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.

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 course literature at the Careers Resource Centre, which is managed by the school librarian. The Resource Centre is available to all pupils at lunch and break times.

Complaints:

Any complaints with regards to provider access can be raised following the school complaints procedure or directly with The Careers & Enterprise Company via provideraccess@careersandenterprise.co.uk

Approval and review

Approved by Governors at Curriculum and Standards Committee

Next review: September 2027

Signed: Chair of Governors: Ms L. Shute

Headteacher: Mr M. Williams