



Provider Access Policy Statement

Document provenance

This policy was approved by Trustees as follows –

Approver: Education Committee

Date of Approval: December 2022

Executive Leadership Team (ELT) Owner:

Date of Review: June 2024

National Director of Secondary

Unless there are legislative or regulatory changes in the interim, this policy will be reviewed every year. Should no substantive changes be required at that point, the policy will move to the next review cycle.

Purpose of this policy

This policy sets our Trust-wide statement to ensure that each secondary academy provides Year 8 to Year 13 pupils with their entitlement to hear from a range of education and training providers about approved technical education qualifications and apprenticeships.

Each academy will use this overarching policy statement to set out how external providers can work with our academies to have access to talk to and work with our Year 8 to Year 13 pupils. Each E-ACT secondary academy will publish their respective Provider Access Request access statements so that external providers know who to contact and how to work with our academies.

The information in this document supersedes the provider access statement and number of meaningful encounters in our current careers guidance.

Provider Access Statement

1. Introduction and purpose

- 1.1. The provider access legislation introduced in January 2018 requires all maintained schools and academies to publish a policy statement setting out opportunities for providers of technical education and apprenticeships to access year 8-13 pupils, and to make sure the statement is followed.
- 1.2. This policy statement sets out the Trust's position in meeting our statutory duty and guides each academy in establishing their arrangements for managing access of providers to pupils for the purposes of giving them information about the provider's education or training offer.
- 1.3. The policy statement includes:
 - an explanation of how 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, including the times at which access is to be given;
 - any procedural requirements in relation to requests for access e.g., the main point of contact at the school to whom requests should be directed;
 - grounds for granting and refusing requests for access e.g., details of timetabled careers lessons, assemblies or careers events which providers may attend; and should include the safeguarding policy; and
 - details of premises or facilities to be provided to a person who is given access e.g., rooms and resources to be made available in support of a provider visit. The policy statement should also include:
 - how the school will work with each visiting provider;
 - a list of providers that have previously been invited into the school;
 - if the school accepts live online encounters;
 - destinations of previous pupils; and
 - information about how a provider can raise a complaint and the procedure that will be followed.

2. Scope

- 2.1. This policy applies to all E-ACT secondary academies and to any provider wishing to request access (See Appendix 1).

3. Legislation and regulation

- 3.1. This policy complies with our legal obligations under Section 42B1 Section 42B and 45A of the Education Act 1997, as amended by The Skills and Post-16 Education Act 2022.
- 3.2. Each secondary academy will publish on their academy website their Provider Access Request statement so that external providers know who to contact and how to work with our academies. On each academy website this will also be linked to detailed information about the careers' education and guidance programme delivered by each academy for every eligible year group.

¹ <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2017/19/section/2>

4. Pupil entitlement

4.1. E-ACT secondary academies must ensure that there is provision for different providers of approved technical education qualifications and apprenticeships to visit the academy and talk to all pupils in Years 8 to Year 13. We want E-ACT pupils to understand and learn about the many different qualifications and training courses available to them in pursuing a wide range of career routes and options for their future training and education needs.

4.2. Academies will ensure access to at least six encounters:

- **Two encounters for pupils during the ‘first key phase’ (year 8 or 9) that are mandatory for all pupils to attend**
- **Two encounters for pupils during the ‘second key phase’ (year 10 or 11) that are mandatory for all pupils to attend**
- **Two encounters for pupils during the ‘third key phase’ (year 12 or 13) that are mandatory for the school to put on but optional for pupils to attend**

This will give pupils the opportunity:

- To find out about technical education qualifications and apprenticeships opportunities, as part of a careers education programme, providing 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 evenings, talks, workshops, assemblies, group discussions and taster events.
- To understand how to make applications for the full range of academic and technical courses.

4.3 All six encounters will happen for a reasonable period of time during the standard school day.

4.4 Provider encounters that take place outside of school hours, for example parents evenings, will not count towards fulfilment of the legal requirement for six provider encounters, but will provide these complementary experiences for pupils and their parents.

4.5 Academies will work with providers to provide information to pupils that, as a minimum, includes:

- information about the provider and the approved technical education qualifications or apprenticeships that the provider offers,
- information about the careers to which those technical education qualifications or apprenticeships might lead,
- a description of what learning or training with the provider is like,
- responses to questions from the pupils about the provider or approved technical education qualifications and apprenticeships.

4.6 The Academy websites will also be updated to give details of the encounters and this will be communicated to parents.

Meaningful provider encounters and Management of Provider Access Requests

4.7 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.

4.8 Previous providers

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

- Oldham Sixth Form College
- Oldham College
- Hopwood Hall
- Manchester College
- Blue Coat School
- Rochdale Sixth Form
- Ask Apprenticeships
- North Chadderton School
- Crompton House School

Destinations of our pupils

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

- Oldham Sixth Form College
- Oldham College
- Hopwood Hall
- Manchester College
- Blue Coat School
- Rochdale Sixth Form
- Ask Apprenticeships
- North Chadderton School
- Crompton House School

4.9 Management of provider access requests

A provider wishing to request access should contact Cathryn Bale, Assistant Head teacher, contact email: cathryn.bale@rca.e-act.org.uk

4.10 The school offers the six provider encounters required by law 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. The Headteacher and senior leadership team will ensure that using the details set out in Appendix 1 and the academy Provider Access Request statement, that providers understand fully what is required and how to set out their request.

4.11 To support Headteachers and senior leaders in the efficient and effective running of the academy, the Trust requests that contact with the academy is made as far ahead as possible, to give time for the academy to consider the access request and plan for a potential visit.

4.12 The Trust wishes to encourage as many providers as possible to meet and work with our Year 8 to Year 13 pupils and annually each academy will schedule events for pupils and parents, but as much advance notice as possible is very helpful.

4.13 In considering requests, Headteachers, senior leaders and leaders for careers education will review:

- How the request supports the programme of planned careers education and guidance for the targeted pupil group and the focus and appropriateness of proposed content;
- How the timing of the request can be included in the schedule of events for other careers events, assemblies, visits by other providers and employers;
- The timing of the request in relation to mock exams, final exams and moderation days, and other events already scheduled annually;
- Whether this is a return visit to the academy by the provider and the overall quality and impact previous visits had for groups of pupils;
- Availability of academy staff to support the visit;
- The availability and appropriateness of the academy accommodation to meet the needs of the request.

4.14 If a request cannot be accommodated by the academy, the academy will contact the provider and explain reasons why. If the request is suitable but the timing proposed is not practical within the current programme, the then the academy will work with the provider to determine an alternative date.

4.15 Any concerns or complaints, should be addressed to the Headteacher via the Academy office. Please access the Complaints Policy via our website on information on how to raise a non-parental complaint.

5. Opportunities for access

5.1. As well as requesting to meet with particular Year 8 to Year 13 groups of pupils, providers may also wish to attend the specific careers events held at each academy annually.

5.2. These events provide good opportunity for providers to come into the academy to work on the careers programme and support pupils and parents.

5.3. Each secondary academy will publish an overview of the careers events per term on the academy website (Appendix 2).

6. Premises and facilities

6.1. The academy will make the main hall, classrooms, and as necessary smaller meeting rooms available for discussions between the provider and pupils, as appropriate to the activity.

6.2. The academy will also make available Audio Visual (AV) and other specialist equipment to support provider presentations. This will all be discussed and

agreed in advance of the visit with the respective academy leader for careers education and guidance 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.

6.3. Visitors to academy buildings will be required to adhere to our safeguarding procedures in the academy.

6.4. Providers are welcome to leave a copy of their prospectus or other relevant course literature with the leaders and careers education team in the academy.

7. Responsibilities

7.1. The following responsibilities apply in relation to this policy:

- National Director of Secondary Education - is accountable for this policy and holding Regional Education Directors to account for ensuring that all secondary academies have published a full and comprehensive Provider Access Request statement;
- Regional Education Directors - responsible for ensuring each academy has in place a published Provider Access Request statement and checking these annually along with the published careers education programme information;
- Headteachers - are accountable in meeting statutory duties to provide a careers education programme for pupils, publishing the Provider Access Request statement each year and ensuring that careers leaders in the academy work with external providers in upholding this policy.
- Academy Careers Leads are responsible for ensuring that all aspects for the careers education guidance is in place.

8. Timing and content of provider encounters

8.1 Academies will design and tailor the programme of provider encounters so that, as pupils progress through school years 8 to 13, they can build up a clear picture of technical education and apprenticeship opportunities available to them at different stages. This means taking account of the key stage 4, post-16 and post-18 options that each provider offers when deciding which year group(s) would benefit most from meeting a provider.

8.2 Recognising that providers often have multiple qualifications and courses to offer to young people at different ages, the legislation includes flexibility for Academies to arrange meetings with the same provider across more than one 'key phase'. For example, an Academy may invite an FE college to talk to pupils in the first key phase (year 8 to 9) about key stage 4 options and to talk to pupils in the second key phase (year 10 to 11) about post-16 options. However, within the same key phase, schools must always provide encounters with two different providers to meet the legal requirement. This means that an FE college talking to pupils multiple times across year 10 and 11 (the second key phase) would only count as one mandatory provider

encounter under the terms of the legal duty.

8.3 The Academy will not do anything which might limit the ability of pupils to attend Such as it restricts invitations to selected groups of pupils or hold events outside of normal school hours.

8.4 We will ensure that every provider gets the chance to present meaningfully to pupils and we will consider carefully the frequency and scale of encounters and work with providers to tailor them to the needs of pupils.

8.5 Persons acting on behalf of a provider may represent the provider, or accompany the provider, if they are particularly well placed to engage and inform pupils about the options available. For example, a University Technical College or an apprenticeship provider may ask to bring a key employer with them on a provider visit. We will consider such requests.

8.6 Schools and colleges will not require a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check for a visitor who is in the school for a “one-off” visit. However, head teachers will decide on the appropriate level of supervision for the duration of the visit.

9. Approval and review

9.1. This policy statement is approved by the Education Committee and then each year the Regional Education Director will review and approve academy Provider Access Request statement and supporting careers education and guidance programme published on the academy website.

Appendix 1

Provider Access Request

Name of E-ACT Academy:

Address:

Headteacher:

Leader for Careers Education and Guidance:

Telephone:

Email:

Provider Access Request

Name of provider:

Main point of contact:

Please outline below which year group/s you would like to meet with in your request. Set out the aims and content proposed for your visit and any AV requirements.

Please include proposed date and length of session/visit.

Submit this form to the Leader for Careers Education and Guidance as above

Appendix 2

Careers programme of events - overview

Name of E-ACT Academy: Royton & Crompton E-ACT Academy

Address: : Blackshaw Lane, Oldham, OL2 6NT

Headteacher: Gemma Cottingham

Leader for Careers Education and Guidance: Miss Amanda Jacob (Assistant Headteacher)

Academic year: 2023-24

	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3
Year 7	G1- Weekly Life Skills activity G5 - #Lords Live	G1- Weekly Life Skills activity G1 National Apprenticeship Week G1 National Careers Week	G1- Weekly Life Skills activity
Year 8	G1- Weekly Careers Focus during Aspire2be Sessions (See Pathway below) G5 - #Lords Live	G1- Weekly Careers Focus during Aspire2be Session (See Pathway below) G1- Oldham Changing Horizons Event TBC G5 & G7- Visit to local Sixth Form Colleges G1 National Apprenticeship Week G1 National Careers Week	G1- Weekly Careers Focus during Aspire2be Session (See Pathway below) G5 & G6- Careers Fayre G5 & G7- Visit to local Sixth Form Colleges G5- STEAM Events G1- World of Work- Life Skills Sessions
Year 9	G1- Weekly Careers Focus during Aspire2be Sessions (See Pathway below) G3 & G8- Careers & Aspirations Assemblies G3, G5 & G7- Careers Advisor/Post 16 providers present at parent parents evenings. G5 #Lords Live G3- Post 16 pathways evening	G1- Weekly Careers Focus during Aspire2be Sessions (See Pathway below) G3 & G8- Careers & Aspirations Assemblies G1 National Apprenticeship Week G1- Oldham Changing Horizons Event TBC G1 National Careers Week G3, G5 & G7- Careers Advisor/Post 16 providers present at parent evenings. G5- Inspirational Women in Industry Event (Wilmott Dixon) G5 & G7- Manchester College Option Talks G8- Careers Advisor Talks & Assemblies G1 National Apprenticeship Week	G1- Weekly Careers Focus during Aspire2be Session (See Pathway below) G5 & G6- Careers Fayre
Year 10	G1- Weekly Careers Focus during Aspire2be Sessions (See Pathway below) G3 & G8- Careers & Aspirations Post 16 Pathways assemblies G5 #Lords Live G3- Post 16 pathways evening	G1- Weekly Careers Focus during Aspire2be Session (See Pathway below) G5- Inspirational Women in Industry Event G7- University Visits TBC G8- Careers Advisor Talks & Assemblies G8- 1:1 Careers Sessions and guidance G1 National Apprenticeship Week G1 National Careers Week Work Experience	G1- Weekly Careers Focus during Aspire2be Session (See Pathway below) G7- University Visits TBC G8- 1:1 Careers Sessions and guidance G5- Mock Interviews G2 & G7- Manchester College LMI talks G5 & G6- Career Fayre

	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3
Year 11	<p>G1- Weekly Careers Focus during Aspire2be Session (See Pathway below)</p> <p>G5 #Lords Live</p> <p>G8- 1:1 Careers Sessions and guidance</p> <p>G3 & G8- Careers & Aspirations Post 16 Pathways assemblies, providers present at Parents Evenings.</p> <p>G5 & G7- Visits from post 16 providers in assemblies and Aspire2be time.</p> <p>G1- Clear focus on next steps, focus on CV writing (G3) and Post 16 pathways evening (G3)</p>	<p>G1- Weekly Careers Focus during Aspire2be Session (See Pathway below)</p> <p>G8- 1:1 Careers Sessions and guidance</p> <p>G1 National Apprenticeship Week</p> <p>G1 National Careers Week</p>	<p>G1- Weekly Careers Focus during Aspire2be Session (See Pathway below)</p> <p>G8- 1:1 Careers Sessions and guidance</p> <p>G5 & G6- Careers Fayre</p>

