

Provider Access Policy Statement

Introduction

Waterside Academy is committed to ensuring that pupils receive information about the full range of education and training options available to them. This includes opportunities for approved providers of technical education qualifications and apprenticeships to speak directly with pupils.

This statement sets out the school's arrangements for managing provider access in accordance with sections 42A and 42B of the Education Act 1997 and current Department for Education statutory careers guidance.

Pupil entitlement

Pupils are entitled to find out about technical education qualifications, apprenticeships and other education and training opportunities as part of a balanced careers programme. Provider encounters should explain the courses or training available, entry requirements, progression opportunities and how pupils can apply or find out more.

Management of provider access requests

A provider wishing to request access should contact:

Colm Gallagher – Careers Leader

Email: gallagherc@watersideacademy.co.uk

Requests should provide reasonable notice and include the proposed date/time, intended pupil group, purpose of the session, number of provider representatives attending, any equipment or room requirements and relevant safeguarding information.

Opportunities for access

Access may be arranged through assemblies, careers lessons, careers fairs, employer/provider events, curriculum sessions, workshops, option or transition events and other suitable activities. The exact format and timing will depend on the school calendar, pupil needs, safeguarding considerations and the nature of the proposed activity.

Premises and facilities

Where appropriate, Waterside Academy will make suitable rooms and presentation facilities available. Arrangements for equipment, digital access, safeguarding and supervision will be agreed in advance. Providers may supply relevant prospectuses or approved information for pupils.

Safeguarding

All provider activity must comply with the school's safeguarding procedures. The school may request relevant safeguarding information before a visit and reserves the right to supervise or amend arrangements where necessary to protect pupils.

Grounds for considering or refusing a request

Requests will be considered fairly. Practical factors may include the timing of the request, clashes with examinations or other planned activity, suitability for the age group, duplication of recent provision, available facilities, safeguarding considerations and whether the activity supports pupils to understand technical education, apprenticeships or other progression routes. Where a request cannot be accommodated, the school will seek to discuss an appropriate alternative where practicable.

Monitoring and review

The Careers Leader will keep the provider access arrangements under review and the statement will be reviewed at least annually with appropriate governance oversight.

Policy review date: September 2026

Next review: September 2027