Provider Access Policy Statement (PAL)

Access for colleges, training providers, university technical colleges, universities and all other post 16 providers, including technical, vocational and academic routes and apprenticeships

Updated 03 July 2026

Outwood Academy Bishopsgarth

This policy statement sets out the arrangements for managing the access of providers to students for the purpose of giving them information about the provider's education or training offer.

Pupil Entitlement:

All students in years 8 to 13 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 KS4 Guided Pathway events, assemblies and group discussions and taster events;

• to understand how to make applications for the full range of academic and technical courses.

In line with the updated Provider Access Legislation, from January 2023, all schools must provide a minimum of six encounters for all students with post 16 providers, as above. This is broken down into key phases: -

1st key phase	Year 8 or 9	Two encounters for students that are mandatory for all to attend
2nd key phase	Year 10 or 11	Two encounters for students that are mandatory for all to attend
3rd key phase	Year 12 or 13	Two encounters that are mandatory for the school to put on but optional for students to attend

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 students from the provider)

• answer questions from all students, including our most vulnerable and those with additional learning needs

Outwood Academy Bishopsgarth defines an encounter as at least 30 minutes, during the academy day.

The academy days run from 8.20am until 2.50pm.

This complies with the school's legal obligations under Section 42B of the Education Act 1997.

As part of our careers programme, we will consider requests from approved training, apprenticeship, technical and vocational education providers, including University Technical Colleges where appropriate, to speak to our students. Outwood Academy Bishopsgarth will also approach these providers directly when planning and organising key career related events throughout the school year such as school assemblies, webinars within the curriculum, including live events, careers engagement events and parents evenings. Meaningful encounters may be planned using the Making it meaningful checklist.

The quality and impact of careers provision at Outwood Academy Bishopsgarth is monitored by our Senior Leadership Team, Trust Wide Curriculum Lead for Careers and the Executive Team. Access and opportunity to engage with technical, vocational and training providers will form part of this process.

Outwood Academy Bishopsgarth has a range of facilities available for providers to use in support of our careers programme. This includes an assembly hall, dining room, sportshall, classrooms and meeting rooms.

Destinations of our students

Last year our year 11 students moved to a range of providers in the local area:

Stockton Sixth Form (A Levels) - 11 students

Stockton Riverside College (Vocational and T Level) - 35 students

Bede Sixth Form College (A levels) - 5 students

Queen Elizabeth Sixth Form College (A Levels) - 4 students

Middlesbrough College (Vocational, T Level and A Level) - 20 students

East Durham College - 1 student

Hartlepool College of Further Education - 1 student

Northern School of Art - 1 student

NETA - 4 Students

NACRO - 1 student

TTE - 1 student

Learning Curve - 2 students

MPCT - 1 student

REMIT Apprenticeship - 1 student

Management of provider access requests

All requests made by providers should be emailed at least 6 weeks in advance of the expected date of the session.

In the first instance, requests by providers should be sent to: -

Name of Careers Leader: - Katie Hockborn

Careers Leader email address: - k.hockborn@bishopsgarth.outwood.com

Tel No: - 01642 586262

Please complete this table and copy into email to Careers Leader

Name of provider requesting access & details of provision	*e.g., Lakeside College, Further Education College and Apprenticeship provider for 16–18-year-old students*
Contact Name at Provider and Contact Details	Name & Job Title: Email address: Telephone number:
Proposed date, time and length of session	
Number of staff who propose to visit	All visitors will be subject to our safeguarding policy. A DBS check will not be required.
Aims and objectives of session including year group	*e.g., Year 10 Assembly Post 16 Options including entry requirements, courses available, labour market information & sectors relating to courses, positive destinations on completion of courses*

Please demonstrate which Gatsby Benchmarks relate to the session and how *(link to information re Gatsby Benchmarks Good Career Guidance | Education | Gatsby)*	*e.g.,* ***BM1*** *After reading Careers Programme, support to further enhance this* ***BM4*** *linking GCSE subjects to career related learning and future progression routes* ***BM7*** *Provide a meaningful encounter of further education*
Proposed format, timings and duration of session including facilities and equipment required	*e.g., One hour assembly, theatre or main hall to accommodate year group. PowerPoint presentation including videos. Questions and answers session for students. Literature to take away following assembly.*
Support required from Outwood Academy Bishopsgarth**, including staffing**	To enable the academy to provide appropriate supervision

Granting Requests and Refusal of Requests

Once your request has been submitted, the Academy Careers Leader will respond to you within 10 working days. All requests will be given due consideration from the designated Careers Leader and Senior Leadership Team.

Once the request has been granted, we will ask you for a range of information to share with our students and parents before the session. This may be a prospectus, letter, presentation to share with students and parents in advance of your session.

This should include: -

- Details of the opportunities you offer including technical education, courses and entry requirements
- What is learning like with your institution?
- How do you prepare students for their best next step on successful completion of your course/training?
- Provide examples of linking courses with careers relating to the labour market and recent positive destinations of students who have completed their learning with you

Requests will be considered against: -

- Clashes with other planned activities or visits.
- Interruption to preparation for public or internal examinations.
- Availability of school staff, space and resources to host the session.
- All requests will also be considered in line with the academy safeguarding policy. For questions on this policy statement or the wider careers programme at Outwood Academy Bishopsgarth, please do not hesitate to contact us.
- Outwood Academy Bishopsgarth will keep a log of all provider requests for access and the outcomes and record on Compass Plus to support the delivery and evaluation of the careers programme.

Opportunities for access

Outwood Academy Bishopsgarth 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 students or their parents or carers.

This policy statement will be evaluated with the Careers Leader and Trust Wide Curriculum Leader for Careers as part of the Compass Evaluation, 3 times each academic year.

If a provider has reason to make a complaint in relation to this statement please email enquires@bishopsgarth.outwood.com who will investigate further.

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