



OUTWOOD FUTURES (Secondary)

Policy Document 2026/27

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1. Policy: Outwood Futures (Secondary)

1.1. Context

The Education Act 2011 inserts a new duty, section 42A, into Part VII of the Education Act 1997, requiring schools to secure access to independent careers guidance for students in years 7-13. Careers guidance must be presented in an impartial manner and promote the best interests of the pupils to whom it is given. Careers guidance must include information on all options available in respect of 16-18 education or training, including apprenticeships and other work-based education and training options. This Policy should be read in conjunction with:

- Statutory Guidance for CEIAG
- Careers Guidance and Access for Education and Training Providers
- The Gatsby Benchmarks for CEIAG
- Work Experience and Work Related Learning Policy
- Child Safeguarding Policy
- Equality and Diversity Policy
- Data Protection Policy
- Provider Access Policy (Baker Clause)

1.2. Aim & Vision

Our Vision: Our ambition is simple; to equip every young person, from Early Years to Post-16, with the knowledge, skills, and confidence to make informed, ambitious, and realistic decisions about their future. We strive to deepen our partnership with our communities so that careers education acts as a lever for school improvement, driving attendance, engagement, and social mobility.

Careers provision is part of our **universal offer**. It sits in the solution space for our biggest challenges: engagement, attendance, and breaking down barriers to opportunity for the most disadvantaged.

1.3. Commitment

To develop a whole school approach to CEIAG by providing a planned programme of activities within and outside the curriculum by:

- Providing a comprehensive curriculum programme relating to clear learning outcomes for careers education, defined by the CDI framework
- Allowing access for all students to independent and impartial careers guidance from a **matrix** accredited external organisation
- Ensuring support for all students to make a successful transition to secondary through our personal development and growth, and careers curriculums
- Strategically managing and coordinating the services from external providers to ensure best use of resources
- Achieving, and maintaining currency of, a nationally accredited Quality in Careers Standard.

1.4. Monitoring requirements

Monitoring to take place at school, community and Trust level, including reporting to SLT, academy council, Executive and Trust Board.

2. Outwood Futures Policy and Procedures

2.1. Rationale for CEIAG

Our approach to Careers Education, Information, Advice, and Guidance (CEIAG) is driven by the statutory guidance, "Careers guidance and access for education and training providers." Originally released in September 2022 and updated in May 2025, this guidance reflects the government's determination to establish a world-class system. The aim is to equip young people with the necessary tools and insights to choose a career path that aligns with their aspirations and potential.

It is expected that:

- Maintained schools, special schools and pupil referral units in England to secure independent careers guidance to pupils in school years 7 to 13
- Schools must provide opportunities for a range of education and training providers to access all year 8 to 13 pupils to inform them about approved technical education qualifications and apprenticeships
- Building on the May 2025 updates to the statutory guidance, there is a clear emphasis on preparing for the future introduction of a guarantee of two weeks' worth of work experience for every young person
- There will be an increasing need for schools and colleges to work in partnership with employers, careers advisers, local authorities and other education and training providers to support students to prepare for the workplace and to make informed choices about the next step in their education or training.

2.2. Student entitlement

Outwood Grange Academies Trust have formed a partnership with Progress Careers Ltd – an external, **matrix** accredited, independent and impartial careers guidance service, who will support students to aim high in their career goals and aspirations.

Teachers in the academies and staff from Progress Careers will support students' career development in a number of ways including:

- Information and discussion in lessons, mentor groups and assemblies to help students make decisions about their future
- Access to careers advisers in a variety of ways including individual meetings, drop-in sessions, group guidance sessions, enrichment activities and results service
- Regular and meaningful encounters with employers e.g. visits, employer talks, careers cafes, employer led tasks
- Careers information and I.T based careers programmes. There are also updated resources about pathways leading to certain professions/sectors and local market information
- Information and updates on notice boards, TV screens, displays and websites, including the bespoke Careers Advice Hub linked on the academy website under: **Students / Careers Advice**. All academic Post 16 centres have a partnership with The Elephant Group
- A work based experience will be available for all students from September 2027.

The academies and Progress Careers use a bespoke tracking system to identify the needs of all students and arrange careers support. There are a number of initiatives in place to ensure access for all students including;

Drop in sessions, workshops, enrichment activities, self-referrals / mentor referrals. All academies also use careers platforms such as Unifrog to support tracking.

2.3. Parent/Carer entitlement

Parents have access to careers advisers in a variety of ways including:

- Individual meetings
- Parents evenings and other events where parents are invited
- Drop-in sessions and results service
- Careers information and access to Unifrog
- Information and updates on the bespoke Careers Advice Hub linked on the academy website under: **Students / Careers Advice**.
- Information is shared with parents, available at parents evenings and also via the academy website and social media.

2.4. Equality and Diversity

We have a commitment to advancing and achieving equity of opportunity for all students / carers / associated persons, staff, governors and visitors.

We believe that all people are of equal value and by encouraging their progression we will promote equality of opportunity, celebrate diversity and challenge stereotypes. Careers programmes are designed to meet the needs of all learners. Activities are differentiated and personalised to ensure all students progress in their career learning and development, and to strengthen their motivation, aspirations and attainment at the academy.

2.5. Place within the Curriculum and Personal Development and Growth sessions

The careers curriculum has been devised following the guidance of the CDI (Career Development Institute) National Framework for all year groups in core provision. This is supplemented by the following; programme of assemblies, PD&G sessions and enrichment workshops (CVs, pathways, research and applications).

2.6. Related outside activities and opportunities

Staff CPD can include a number of outside agencies such as Progress Careers, Unifrog, local colleges, universities and other providers. Careers cafes, careers fairs and other events, which include a wide variety of companies and apprenticeship providers, may also attend offering advice and guidance.

Academies may also organise specific events for parents/carers and students to provide specialist support.

2.7. Monitoring and tracking of young people

The academies have a responsibility to maintain a full and comprehensive tracking system that informs intervention. The academies track intended destinations, courses and where they attend in the next academic year with further NEETS intervention. The academies maintain records of all CEIAG interventions and interviews. Agreements are in place with external Post 16 providers to inform the academies of students applying and attending their place of education. Progress Careers staff may also support tracking of students in line with the Partnership Agreement with each academy. OGAT has data-sharing protocols with Local Authority areas to ensure the exchange of relevant progression data in the best interests of young people.

2.8. Management

The Outwood Futures Programme and work experience is planned and implemented by the nominated members of SLT as part of the 'Deep' structure to work closely with the staff, students, parents and the wider community. This area is supported by a nominated link governor. Each academy will have a named SLT lead for Outwood Futures who will attend contract reviews with Progress Careers. Each academy will also identify a lead to co-ordinate day to day activities and be the main point of contact for Progress Careers staff.

2.9. Staffing

All staff contribute to CEIAG through their roles as mentors, subject teachers or learning managers. Staff training is provided on a regular basis and are provided with guidance sheets, tutor handouts and option booklets. All staff have access to the bespoke Careers Advice Hub linked on the academy website under: **Students / Careers Advice**, which includes specific staff information and resources.

2.10. Provision of external and Independent careers guidance

Independent and impartial careers advice and guidance is provided in partnership with Progress Careers Ltd - an external, **matrix** accredited, independent and impartial careers guidance company, commissioned on behalf of the OGAT Family of Schools. The Progress Careers service to academies is customised on an institutional basis and detailed in the Partnership Agreement document. This is reviewed twice a year to meet changing needs. Students are also encouraged to access the National Careers Service and the National Apprenticeship site via a link on the bespoke Careers Advice Hub linked on the academy website under: **Students / Careers Advice**.

2.11. Other formal and informal partnerships

The academies have a range of formal and informal partnership arrangements including with Post 16 providers, colleges, The Elephant Group, Unifrog, the Careers and Enterprise Company, employers, HE and Training Providers.

2.12. Information resources

A range of careers information, in a variety of formats, is provided in the Learning Resource Centre of each academy so that it is accessible to all students. Resources are managed in each academy to ensure that they are up to date and meet the needs of all students. The bespoke Careers Advice Hub website also provides quality assured information and access to other approved websites and online resources.

2.13. Budget

Funding is allocated in the academy's annual budgets planned in the context of whole academy priorities and the OGAT contract for external and impartial careers advice. Maximum use will be made of quality assured free at source material as the currency of careers materials is very short. A nominated member of the SLT in each academy will be responsible for the effective deployment of resources.

2.14. Staff development

All staff should have access to a minimum of 1 hour per year through CPD time to update themselves in relation to current developments in careers pathways. Specific needs are

identified in conjunction with the academy CPD co-ordinator and reviewed on an annual basis.

2.15. Monitoring, review and evaluation

Contract reviews with Progress Careers Ltd will include an account of activities, a review of progress and related data together with an evaluation of student and parental response to provision. Contract reviews are held both at individual academy level to make sure that the provision is targeted and differentiated to meet the individual school needs and also that there is an annual trust wide contract review meeting to review impact, discuss trust wide priorities and understand how the CEIAG programme can be developed, enhanced to better meet the needs of the students.

Appendix A: Student Entitlement

Investing in your Future

The careers education and guidance programme at the academy seeks to positively support you to acquire the educational, social and employability skills necessary for lifelong success in a diverse and changing world of work.

In partnership with Progress Careers – ***an external, independent and impartial careers guidance service*** - we will support you to aim high in your career goals and aspirations.

As a pupil at this Academy, you are entitled to a careers education and guidance programme which:

- ✓ is personal to you and always puts your interests first
- ✓ motivates and inspires you to consider all opportunities open to you within and outside of the academy
- ✓ helps you to gain the skills you need to make your career ambitions a reality
- ✓ provides the support you need to be successful
- ✓ helps you access any additional support you might need
- ✓ is delivered by trained and qualified teachers and advisers, with up-to-date knowledge and understanding of career pathways and local labour market information
- ✓ protects and respects your personal information and shares it only with your consent
- ✓ always puts your interests first

Together with staff from Progress Careers we will support your career development in a number of ways including:

- Information and discussion in lessons and assemblies to help you make decisions about your future
- Activities and events such as careers fairs
- Access to careers advisers in a variety of ways including individual meetings, drop-in sessions, learning pathway planning, enrichment activities and results days
- Careers information and I.T based careers programmes
- Information and updates on notice boards, plasma screens
- The bespoke Careers Advice Hub on the academy website under: Information / Careers Advice.

Appendix B: Parents' Entitlement

Investing in your child's future

Research has consistently shown that parents and carers are **the** most influential factor in students' decisions about the future. Your support and encouragement influences their choices, and the guidance you provide will be invaluable to their eventual achievements and career pathways. This might feel a little daunting...the jobs of the future may be very different from your own experiences and choices. In fact, they may not have even been invented yet!

There are some very simple and practical steps you can take to support your child.

- Talk to them about their current educational attainment and estimated grades and encourage them to aim high (the skills shortages of the future will be in higher level jobs)
- Discuss where they want to be and research how to get there (lots of great resources in the Academy and on the internet)
- The bespoke Careers Advice Hub on the academy website under: Information / Careers Advice.
- Encourage them to seek out the advice and experiences they need to help them achieve their goals
- Help them with the steps they need to take

You are not alone in this! In partnership with Progress Careers – ***an external, independent and impartial careers guidance service*** - we will support your child to aim high in their career goals and aspirations.

You are welcome to attend your child's careers meeting and we encourage you to contact the academy or Progress Careers if you need any more help or information.