Provider Access -Policy Statement

Equalities Statement

In our Trust we work to ensure that there is equality of opportunity for all members of our community who hold a range of protected characteristics as defined by the Equality Act 2010, as well as having regard to other factors which have the potential to cause inequality, such as socio-economic factors.

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Responsible For:	Secondary Improvement Team

Policy Revision Log	
Date	**Version No. Brief Detail of Change**
September 2024	V1. N/A
September 2025	V2.
September 2026	V3

This Policy includes reference to The Department of Education, July 2021: "Baker Clause" and the Provider Access Legislation, January 2023

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1. Rationale

High quality careers education and guidance in school or college is critical to young people's futures. It helps to prepare them for the workplace by providing a clear understanding of the world of work including the routes to jobs and careers that they might find engaging and rewarding. It supports them to acquire the self-development and career management skills they need to achieve positive employment destinations. This helps students to choose their pathways, improve their life opportunities and contribute to a productive and successful economy.

As the number of apprenticeships rises every year, it becomes increasingly important that all young people have a full understanding of all the options available to them post-16 and post-18 including wider technical education options such as T-Levels and Higher Technical Qualifications.

2. Commitment

Meopham School is committed to ensuring there is an opportunity for a range of education and training providers to access students, for the purpose of informing them about approved technical education qualifications and apprenticeships. Meopham School is fully aware of the responsibility to set students on the path that will secure the best outcome which will enable them to progress in education and work and give employers the highly skilled people they need. That means acting impartially, in line with the statutory duty, and not showing bias towards any route, be that academic or technical.

Meopham School endeavours to ensure that all students are aware of all routes to higher skills and are able to access information on technical options and apprenticeships (The Department of Education, July 2021: "Baker Clause": supporting students to understand the full range of education and training options, and the Provider Access Legislation, January 2023).

3. Development

This policy has been developed and is reviewed annually by the Careers Leader and Line Manager based on current good practice guidelines published by the Department for Education.

Links with other policies

It supports and is underpinned by key school policies including those for Careers, Child Protection, Equality and Diversity, and SEND.

4. Monitoring review and evaluation

The Policy is monitored and evaluated annually via the Trust Executive Leadership Team.

5. Pupil entitlement

Meopham School fully supports the statutory requirement for students to have direct access to other providers of further education training, technical training and apprenticeships. 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. This will be done in assemblies in National Apprenticeship Week and National Careers Week, in addition to providers attending careers events at school or at each Trust school, at our annual Careers fair and other bespoke apprenticeship and college-based activities.

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Parents and Carers

Parental involvement is encouraged, and parents may be invited to attend the events to meet the providers.

5.1 All pupils 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 options events, assemblies and group discussions and taster events;
- to understand how to make applications for the full range of academic and technical courses.

5.2 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).**

For pupils in the 'third key phase' (year 12 to 13), particularly those that have not yet decided on their next steps, there are two more provider encounters available during this period, which are optional for pupils 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 pupils from the provider);
- answer questions from pupils.

6. 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.

Previous providers

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

North Kent College Group (NKC)
MidKent College
Employers such as the NHS, Royal mail, Kent Police, BAE Systems, Charlton community Trust,

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Local solicitors, The Armed forces, ER Productions, Trial group
The local Rotary Club with a variety of vocations
Canterbury Christ Church University
The University of Kent
TEP (Kent Choices)

Destinations of our pupils

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

- 43% of pupils now attend nearby colleges, including North Kent College, Mid Kent College, North West Kent College and Capital College Kings Cross.
    - Of these pupils, 7 attend sports-specialist facilities - some with scholarships - focusing on golf, rugby, and football.
    - Other courses include Brick laying, Fashion, Hair & Beauty, Health & Social Care, Mechanics, Multi-trades, Performing Arts, Sport Science and Uniformed Services.
- 25% of our year 11s chose to remain at Meopham Secondary School for Sixth Form.
- 17% of students moved onto other Sixth Forms in the area, including Northfleet School for Girls, Gravesend Grammar School, St John's Catholic Comprehensive School, Mayfield Grammar School and Wrotham School.
- 8% of pupils secured an apprenticeship or employment (with training), with positions such as childcare, business administration and vehicle technician.

Last year our year 13 pupils moved to a range of providers in the local area after school:

- 35% of pupils in year 13 continued their studies on into University
    - 90% of pupils who applied to University got into their first choice.
    - Destinations include

University of Plymouth	Clinical Psychology
University of Nottingham	Sports Rehabilitation
Canterbury Christ Church University	Music Production Paramedic Science (deferred) Politics Sport Business
University of Greenwich	Criminology & Law

- 48% of pupils have gone into employment
- 9% of students have gone into an apprenticeship or degree apprenticeship, with roles in Environmental Health and as a Barrister's clerk.

7. Management of provider access requests

7.1 Procedure

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Requests for access in the first instance should be directed to Mel Hyder, Careers Advisor. Mel may be contacted by telephone or email, 01474 814646 and melanie.hyder@swale.at . Alternatively, contact can also be made to David McQuillan who may be contacted by telephone 01474 814 646 or email david.mcquillan@swale.at

7.2 Details of premises or facilities to be provided to a person who is given access

Meopham school will provide an appropriate room or assembly hall. The room or hall will have digital access. The Careers Team will work closely with the provider to ensure the facilities are appropriate to the audience. Appropriate safeguarding checks will be carried out. Providers will be met and supervised by a member of the Careers Team who will facilitate.

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 school for the attention of the careers team.

7.3 Opportunities for access (see table below)

The school offers the **six provider encounters required by law (marked in bold text)** 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.

	Autumn terms	WInter Terms	Summer Terms
Year 8	Careers assemblies	Annual Careers Fayre (a number of providers present) PAL Employee Encounter assembly	Careers Assemblies Employer Encounter lunch sessions
Year 9	Careers assemblies	Annual Careers Fayre (a number of providers present) PAL Employee Encounter assembly	Careers assemblies Employer Encounter lunch sessions
Year 10	Careers assemblies	Annual Careers Fayre (a number of providers present) PAL Employee Encounter assembly	Work Experience week Employer Encounter lunch sessions CCU (Degree in a day)
Year 11	Skills for success evening (includes attendance by the careers advisor and apprenticeship providers) Careers assembly - colleges	Annual Careers Fayre (a number of providers present) PAL Employee Encounter assembly	Employer Encounter lunch sessions Apprenticeship, UCAS and CV builder workshops

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	and apprenticeships		
Year 12	UCAS and Apprenticeship provider conference (a number of providers present)	Annual Careers Fayre (a number of providers present) PAL Employee Encounter assembly	Taster days / trips to universities. Work Experience Week Unilife talk Employer Encounter lunch sessions
Year 13	UCAS and Apprenticeship provider conference (a number of providers present)	Annual Careers Fayre (a number of providers present) PAL Employee Encounter assembly	Employer Encounter lunch sessions

7.4 Complaints procedure

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

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