

Provider Access Policy

Date	Description
April 2026	Governs how approved external providers access pupils to inform them about future education and career pathways To be read alongside the careers policy

Review Schedule	Annually
Next Review	April 2027
Policy Holder	Katie Gray

Introduction

This policy statement sets out the school's arrangements for managing the access of education and training providers to students at Brookfields School. This complies with the school's legal obligations under Section 42B of the Education Act 1997 and the Provider Access Legislation 2023.

Aims

Brookfields SEN School policy for access to other education and training providers has the following aims:

- To develop our student's knowledge and awareness of all future pathways available to them
- To support students to be able to learn more about opportunities for education and training outside of school before making crucial choices about their future options.
- To reduce drop out from courses and avoid the risk of students becoming NEET (young people not in education, employment or training).

Statutory requirements

Schools are required to ensure that there is an opportunity for a range of education and training providers to access students in years 8 to 13 for the purposes of informing them about approved technical education, qualifications or apprenticeships.

Schools must provide a minimum of 6 encounters with technical education or training providers to all pupils in years 8 to 13 (see more detail in section 2.1 below).

Schools must also have a policy statement that outlines the circumstances in which education and training providers will be given access to these pupils.

This is outlined in:

- Section 42B of the Education Act 1997
- Education and Skills Act 2008
- The School Information (England) Regulations 2008
- The Skills and Post-16 Education Act 2022
- Guidance from the Department for Education (DfE) on careers guidance and access for education and training providers

This policy shows how our school complies with these requirements.

Student Entitlement

At Brookfields School, where appropriate all students* in years 7-14 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.
- 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.
- understand how to make applications for the full range of academic and technical courses.
- have a minimum of six encounters with education providers

*It should be noted that many technical qualifications and apprenticeships require a minimum of two GCSEs. At Brookfields School, we provide access to Supported Internships as an alternative route into a job focussed training opportunity.

Meaningful encounters with providers

Brookfields School is committed to providing meaningful encounters for all pupils, where appropriate.

A meaningful encounter:

- Is where the pupil can explore what it is like to learn, develop and succeed in that environment
- Involves meeting both staff and learners/trainees
- Has a clear purpose
- Is underpinned by learning outcomes that are appropriate to the needs of the pupil
- Involves a 2-way interaction between the pupil and the provider
- Includes information about the provider and the careers these could lead to
- Describes what learning or training with the provider is like
- Is followed by opportunities for the pupil to reflect on the insights, knowledge or skills gained through the encounter

Development

This policy has been developed by the Careers Team and is based on current good practice guidelines by the Department for Education. It will be monitored and reviewed annually.

Links with other policies

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

Equality and Diversity

Access to other providers is available and promoted to allow all students to access information about other providers of further education and supported internships. Brookfields SEN School is committed to encouraging all students to make decisions about their future based on impartial information.

Management of Provider Access requests procedure

Any provider seeking to request access or raise concerns regarding this policy should in the first instance contact the school on 01189421382 who will direct them to the Careers Hub.

Working with parents and carers

We aim to involve parents and carers in our careers programme and welcome your attendance at encounters with providers in school. Upcoming events are shared on the school website, letters sent home and discussions had during annual review and parent/carer meetings.

If you would like to speak to the school about encounters with providers, please contact the school on 01189421382 who will direct them to the Careers Hub.

We also welcome feedback from parents and carers to help improve our offer of encounters with providers.

Premises and Facilities

The school will make the main hall, classrooms or private meeting rooms available for discussions between the provider and students, as appropriate to the activity. The school will also make available equipment to support provider presentations. This will all be discussed and agreed in advance of the visit with the Careers Team.

Providers will be encouraged to leave a copy of their prospectus or other relevant course literature at the school, which will be made accessible to students.

Appropriate safeguarding procedures will be in place and Providers will be met and supervised by a member of the Careers Team.

Pupil destinations

In the year 2024-2025 our pupils moved onto a range of providers after school:

Year 11: 100% of year 11s stayed for sixth form at Brookfields

Year 12: 23% of year 12s moved onto college to access courses which are not offered at Brookfields

Year 13: 7% of year 13s moved onto college to access courses which are not offered at Brookfields

7% of year 13s moved into part time employment

14% were accepted onto a Supported Internship programme

Year 14: 54% of year 14s attended college when they left Brookfields

18% of year 14s are at home with their families

27% of year 14s attended a day centre provision

Live/Virtual encounters

The school will consider live online encounters with providers where requested, and these will be broadcast into classrooms or the school hall. Technology checks in advance will be required to ensure compatibility of systems.

Opportunities for access

The school provides a relevant and engaging careers curriculum, which meets the differing needs and requirements of our students. This is developed throughout a student's time at the school and is always supportive of their abilities, strengths and skills while being inclusive of a wide range of providers. This includes:

School events linked directly to the school careers programme: These events offer providers an opportunity to come into school to speak to students and/or their parents/carers e.g., parent evenings, 'What's Next?' events, community visits, alumni meet and greets, college visits, annual reviews.

	Autumn Terms 1&2	Spring Terms 3&4	Summer Terms 5&6
KS3	Way2Work lessons PSHE lessons	Way2Work lessons PSHE lessons	Way2Work lessons PSHE lessons

	Parent's Evenings Employer Encounter events What's Next Evening	Parent's evening Employer Encounter events National Careers Week	Parent's Evenings Enrichment activities Transition taster day
KS4	Way2Work lessons PSHE lessons Parent's Evenings Employer Encounter events Personal Guidance What's Next Evening	Way2Work lessons PSHE lessons Parent's Evenings Personal Guidance Employer Encounter events Alumni meet and greet National Careers Week	Way2Work lessons PSHE lessons Parent's Evenings Enrichment activities Transition taster day Personal Guidance Post 16 options event
KS5	Way2Work lessons PSHE lessons Parent's Evenings Employer Encounter events Personal Guidance Attend post 18 education events at local colleges What's Next Evening	Way2Work lessons PSHE lessons Parent's Evenings Personal Guidance Employer Encounter events Alumni Meet and greet National Careers Week	Way2Work lessons PSHE lessons Parent's Evenings Enrichment activities Transition visits Personal Guidance