

Provider Access Policy Statement

This policy statement sets out the College's arrangement for managing the access of providers to students at the College with the purpose of giving them information about the provider's education and training offer. This complies with the College's legal obligations under section 42B of the Education Act 1997 and includes The Department of Education July 2021 "Baker Clause" and the Provider Access Legislation January 2023

Rationale

High quality careers education and guidance in 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-18 including wider technical education options such as Higher Technical Qualifications.

Commitment

Worcester Sixth Form College 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. Worcester Sixth Form College 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.

Worcester Sixth Form College 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).

Aims

Worcester Sixth Form College's policy for Access to other education and training providers has the following aims:

- To develop the knowledge and awareness of our students of all career pathways available to them, including technical qualifications and apprenticeships.
- To support young people to be able to learn more about opportunities for education and training outside of College 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).

Student Entitlement

All students 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 careers events, group discussions and taster events;
- To understand how to make applications for the full range of academic and technical courses.

For students at college during the 'third key phase' (year 1 to 2), particularly those that have not yet decided on their next steps, there are two provider encounters available during this period, which are optional for students to attend.

Development

This policy has been developed and is reviewed annually by the Senior Leader for Progression, Andrew Fitzpatrick and the College Principal, Ed Senior based on current good practice guidelines by the Department for Education.

Links with other policies

It supports and is underpinned by key College 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 apprenticeships. Worcester Sixth Form College is committed to encouraging all students to make decisions about their future based on impartial information.

Requests for access

Requests for access should be directed to Andrew Fitzpatrick, Senior Leader for Progression. Email andrew.fitzpatrick@wsfc.ac.uk Telephone: 01905 362600

Grounds for granting requests for access

Provider encounters will be scheduled during the main college hours and the provider will be given a reasonable amount of time to:

- 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).

Students may also travel to visit another provider as part of the trip to be organised in partnership with Worcester Sixth Form College.

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

Worcester Sixth Form College will provide an appropriate room or area to be agreed. All rooms have computers, projectors and screens provided. Student Services will organise

this, working 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 Student Services Team who will facilitate.

Live/Virtual encounters

Worcester Sixth Form College will consider live online encounters with providers where requested, and these may be broadcast into classrooms. Technology checks in advance will be required to ensure compatibility of systems.

Parents and Carers

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

Management

The Senior Leader for Progression coordinates all provider requests and is responsible to his senior management line manager.

Complaints Procedure

Any complaints about this policy should be raised to Andrew Fitzpatrick, Senior Leader for Progression. Email andrew.fitzpatrick@wsfc.ac.uk Telephone: 01905 362600

The Senior Leader for Progression will raise the complaint to Ed Senior, Principal of Worcester Sixth Form College.

Monitoring review and evaluation

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

Policy Coordinator: Andrew Fitzpatrick, Senior Leader for Progression

Policy Reviewed: June 2024

Appendix

Providers who have been invited into Worcester Sixth Form College to date include:

Worcester University

Coventry University

University of South Wales

Aberystwyth University

Worcestershire Apprenticeships

TDM

Destinations of previous students from Worcester Sixth Form College include:

Worcester University

Birmingham University

Bristol University

Gloucestershire University

Warwick University

Birmingham City University

Nottingham University

Pershore College

Heart of Worcestershire College

June 2024