

Provider Access Policy Statement

Our Lady's Catholic College, Lancaster

Schools must allow colleges and training providers access to every student in Years 8 to 13 to inform them about approved technical education qualifications and apprenticeships.

The Department of Education, July 2021: "Baker Clause"

Every pupil, whatever their ambitions, should have the opportunity to explore what it is like to learn at the full range of learning providers, including colleges, universities, apprenticeship and training providers (including employers), University Technical Colleges (UTCs) and Studio Schools. It is important that an opportunity for a range of education and training providers to access all year 8 to 13 pupils for the purpose of informing them about approved technical education qualifications and apprenticeships. By hearing directly from a range of providers, every pupil can build up a full picture of the options available and consider how the opportunity to study or train in different ways, and in different environments, might suit their skills, interests and aptitudes. This will lead to better-informed choices and help to reduce the risk of young people dropping out of courses.

As a minimum, schools must offer:

- Two encounters for pupils during the 'first key phase' (year 8 or 9) that are mandatory for all pupils to attend, to take place any time during year 8 or between 1/09 and 28/02 during Year 9.
- Two encounters for pupils during the 'second key phase' (year 10 or 11) that are mandatory for all pupils to attend, to take place any time during year 10 or between 1 September and 28 February during year 11.
- Two encounters for pupils during the 'third key phase' (year 12 or 13) that are mandatory for the school to put on but optional for pupils to attend, to take place any time during year 12 or between 1 September and 28 February during year 13.

Department of Education Provider Access Legislation, January 2023

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.

Commitment

Our Lady's Catholic 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. Our Lady's Catholic 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.

Our Lady's Catholic 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

Our Lady's Catholic College 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 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).

Student Entitlement

Our Lady's Catholic College 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, PSHE lessons and National Careers Week, in addition to providers attending careers events at school and student visits to FE, HE and industry.

Development

This policy has been developed and is reviewed annually by the Careers Leader Juliet Duncan (Assistant Headteacher) based on current good practice guidelines 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.

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. Our Lady's Catholic 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 Juliet Duncan, Careers Leader, who can be contacted by telephone or email: j.duncan@olcc.lancs.sch.uk, Tel: 01524 66689

Grounds for granting requests for access

Access will be given for providers to attend during school assemblies, timetabled Careers or Life lessons, and Careers or Raising Aspirations events that The Our Lady's Catholic College is arranging. Students may also travel to visit another provider as part of the trip to be organised in partnership with Our Lady's Catholic College.

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

Our Lady's Catholic College will provide an appropriate room or assembly hall to be agreed. All rooms have computers, projectors and screens provided. Computer rooms can also be arranged. The Careers Leader or Careers Adviser 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 Careers Team who will facilitate.

Live/Virtual encounters

Our Lady's Catholic College will consider live online encounters with providers where requested, and these may be broadcast into classrooms or the school assembly hall. Technology checks in advance will be required to ensure compatibility of systems.

Parents and Carers

Parental involvement is encouraged, and parents are kept informed of provider access opportunities and may be invited to attend the events to meet the providers.

Management

The Careers Leader coordinates all provider requests and is responsible to his/her senior management line manager.

Complaints Procedure

Any complaints about this policy should be raised to Juliet Duncan, email: j.duncan@olcc.lancs.sch.uk

Juliet Duncan will raise the complaint to Helen Seddon, Headteacher, Our Lady's Catholic College

Monitoring review and evaluation

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

Policy Reviewed: September 2023

Appendix

Providers who have been invited into Our Lady's Catholic College to date include:

Lancaster & Morecambe College

Myerscough College

ASK

Lancaster Training Services

EDF

Army Careers

SEPTEMBER 2023

Lancaster University

NHS

Future U