

# Provider Access Statement Inspire Learning Trust



## Introduction

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

## Rationale

High quality careers education and guidance in a school/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

Inspire Learning Trust 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. The Trust 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. The Trust 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.

## Aims

Inspire Learning Trust's Provider Access Statement 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 the school/college before making crucial choices about their future options and to thoroughly inform their post-18 options.
- To ensure a well-informed positive destinations culture and reduce drop out from courses, avoiding the risk of students becoming NEET (young people not in education, employment, or training) at both college and post-18 levels.

### Student entitlement

All students across Inspire Learning Trust institutions (covering Years 8–13) are entitled:

- To find out about technical education qualifications and apprenticeship opportunities, as part of a careers programme which provides information on the full range of education and training options available at each transition point, including post-L2 and post-18 transition points.
- To hear from a range of local providers about the opportunities they offer, including technical education and apprenticeships – through options events, assemblies, group discussions, taster events, curriculum areas, whole school/college events, online information and briefings.
- To understand how to, and receive support for, making applications for the full range of academic and technical courses.

### Mandatory Encounters

The Trust fully supports the statutory requirement for students to have direct access to other providers of further education training, technical training and apprenticeships. The Trust will comply with the legal requirement to put on encounters with providers of approved technical education qualifications or apprenticeships across different key phases:

- **First Key Phase (Years 8 or 9):** Two encounters that are mandatory for all students to attend.
- **Second Key Phase (Years 10 or 11):** Two encounters that are mandatory for all students to attend.
- **Post-16 Education/Provision (Years 12 or 13, including Level 2 provision):** At least two encounters with providers of approved technical education qualifications or apprenticeships, delivered via curriculum areas and transition events.

### The Work Experience Guarantee

The government now expects schools and colleges to work toward a work experience guarantee. This aims for every student to complete approximately 50 hours (roughly two weeks) of meaningful work experience by the time they finish secondary education.

- Key Stage 3 (Years 7–9): Schools must arrange at least one week (or equivalent hours) of "meaningful employer-led activities".
- Key Stage 4 (Years 10–11): Every student must have an experience that allows them to "experience a real working environment."
- Every student must have at least one in-person experience of a physical workplace before leaving school.
- Key Stage 5 (Years 12–13): Students must have at least one additional workplace experience tailored to their specific career path or subjects.

## Meaningful provider encounters

One encounter is defined as one meeting/session between students and one provider. These encounters will be embedded to:

- Share information about both the provider and the approved technical education qualifications 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 from the provider.
- Answer questions from students.

## Management of provider access requests

### Procedure

A provider wishing to request access should contact the relevant Lead Professional at our respective institutions:

### Oakwood High School

- **Contact:** Donna Tank, Assistant Headteacher, Personal Development
- **Telephone:** 01709 512222
- **Email:** [d.tank@oakwood.ac](mailto:d.tank@oakwood.ac)
- **Careers Leader:** Lorna Barton

### Winterhill School

- **Contact:** Tania Ashton-Bray, Careers Lead
- **Telephone:** 01709 740232
- **Email:** [tashton-bray@winterhill.org.uk](mailto:tashton-bray@winterhill.org.uk)

### Thomas Rotherham College (Years 12-13 Specialist Provision)

- **Contact:** Rachel Mullins, Manager for Careers and Employer Engagement (Careers Leader)
- **Telephone:** 01709 300600
- **Email:** [r.mullins@trc.ac.uk](mailto:r.mullins@trc.ac.uk)

## Opportunities for access

A number of events, integrated into the trust academies' careers programmes, will offer providers an opportunity to come into the school/college to speak to students and/or their parents/carers.

### TRC

For our **Year 12 and Year 13 students**, structured and targeted transition opportunities are embedded across the academic year to guide their post-18 pathway decisions:

| Term        | Level 2 Provision (Post-16) | Year 12 Provision | Year 13 Provision |
|-------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Autumn Term | Next Steps Event            | Next Steps Event  | Next Steps Event  |

| Term        | Level 2 Provision (Post-16)             | Year 12 Provision                                           | Year 13 Provision                       |
|-------------|-----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| Spring Term | Job Ready sessions                      | Journey to Higher Education Event                           | Job Ready and recruitment sessions      |
| Summer Term | Recruitment and 'Mind the Gap' sessions | Planned input in pastoral, enrichment, and curriculum areas | Recruitment and 'Mind the Gap' sessions |

In addition to these core events, providers can access Years 12-13 students via informal lunchtime "careers@courtyard" sessions held in the college café area, as well as planned input delivered during scheduled pastoral slots, enrichment blocks, and relevant curriculum areas. This allows FE and HE partners, training providers, voluntary organisations, and employers a direct route to consult with post-16 cohorts.

### Grounds for granting requests for access

Access will be given for providers to attend during scheduled school/college assemblies, timetabled Careers or Life/PCHSE lessons and Careers or Raising Aspirations events that the Trust academies arrange. Furthermore, students in Years 12-13 may travel to visit another provider as part of an external trip organised in partnership with that provider, subject to parental permission and in line with official risk assessment procedures.

### Premises and Facilities

The academies will make appropriate spaces—such as the main hall, dining hall, Lecture Theatre, classrooms, or private meeting rooms—available for discussions between the provider and students, as appropriate to the activity and with due diligence to safeguarding protocols. All rooms are equipped with computers, projectors, screens and AV equipment. Specialist IT rooms or technical team support can also be arranged. This must be discussed and agreed in advance of the visit with the Careers Leaders or a member of their team, with presentation materials provided to the school/college in advance where required.

Providers are welcome to leave copies of their prospectus or other relevant course literature with our Careers Leaders or Learning Resource Centres (LRC).

For Years 12-13 students, these materials are made directly accessible in the LRC throughout their free periods, breaks and lunchtimes.

Trust academies can also display promotional materials on reception and courtyard screens, distribute them to students via weekly digital "futures" emails, or arrange live virtual encounters to be broadcast directly into classrooms or lecture spaces.

### Parents and Carers

Parental involvement is highly encouraged across the Trust, and parents/carers may be explicitly invited to attend these events to meet with the providers alongside their children.

### Management & Development

The careers lead professional at each site coordinates all provider requests and is responsible to their senior management line manager. This policy has been developed based on current good practice guidelines by the Department for Education. It supports and is underpinned by key school/college policies including those for Careers, Work Experience, Child Protection, Equality and Diversity and SEND.

### Equality and Diversity

Access to other providers is available and actively promoted to allow all students to access information about further education, higher education, and apprenticeships. The Trust is committed to encouraging all students to make decisions about their future based on impartial information.

### Complaints Procedure

Any complaints about provider access should initially be raised with the site's named careers Lead Professional:

- **Oakwood High School:** Raised to Donna Tank, Assistant Headteacher.
- **Winterhill School:** Raised to Tania Ashton-Bray, who may escalate the complaint to Dr Andrew Reeder (Headteacher).
- **Thomas Rotherham College:** Raised to Rachel Mullins, Careers Leader.

| Policy Review Framework                | Details                                                    |
|----------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|
| Policy Review Frequency                | Biennial                                                   |
| Policy to be approved by               | Trust ELT                                                  |
| Date of Review                         | June 2026                                                  |
| Key Updates at latest review           |                                                            |
| Next Review                            | June 2028                                                  |
| Lead Professional / Policy Coordinator | Lead T Aston-Bray in collaboration with D Tank & R Mullins |
| Communication                          | Policy Acceptance via HR System / Web published documents  |
| Document Location                      | Policy Acceptance, Every Compliance System                 |