

Provider Access Policy Statement

Policy Owner:	Headteacher
Queries to:	Headteacher/Careers Lead
Date created:	May 2026
Date of last review:	
Date of next review:	May 2027

(Including the Department for Education “Baker Clause” (2021) and Provider Access Legislation (2023))

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Rationale

High-quality careers education and guidance is essential to securing positive futures for young people. At Brunel School, an SEMH specialist provision, we recognise that pupils need clear, accessible and emotionally safe information about the world of work and the full range of post-16 pathways available to them.

Effective careers guidance:

- Helps pupils understand routes into employment, training and further study
- Supports the development of self-awareness, independence and decision-making
- Reduces the risk of pupils becoming NEET
- Enables pupils to make informed choices that improve long-term life chances
- Contributes to a skilled, confident and successful local workforce

As technical education expands nationally — including apprenticeships, T-Levels and Higher Technical Qualifications and Supported Internships— it is increasingly important that pupils understand all available options.

Commitment

Brunel School is committed to ensuring that a wide range of education and training providers can access pupils to share information about opportunities for post-16, technical education, apprenticeships and other approved qualifications.

We recognise our responsibility to support pupils to progress into meaningful education, training or employment. This means:

- Acting impartially, in line with statutory duties
- Ensuring pupils receive balanced, unbiased information
- Providing access to all routes — academic, vocational and technical
- Ensuring information is delivered in a way that is emotionally safe, aligns with our core value and appropriate for our young people

Brunel School fully complies with:

- The Baker Clause (2021)
- The Provider Access Legislation (2023)
- Section 42B of the Education Act 1997

Aims

Brunel School's Provider Access Policy aims to:

- Increase pupils' knowledge of all career pathways, including technical qualifications and apprenticeships
- Ensure pupils can explore opportunities beyond school before making key decisions
- Increase engagement and prevent pupils becoming NEET
- Support pupils to make informed, confident and realistic choices
- Provide appropriate, trauma-informed careers encounters which meet the needs of our young people

Pupil Entitlement

Brunel School fully supports the statutory requirement for pupils to have direct access to providers of further education, technical training and apprenticeships.

We will provide at least six encounters with approved providers between Years 8 and 11. These will include:

- Activities during National Careers Week
- Careers fairs and themed events
- Provider visits to school
- Small-group or 1:1 sessions for pupils who require adapted delivery
- Supported visits to colleges or training providers
- Employer encounters through enrichment and the personal development curriculum

This will be adapted to reflect Brunel School's Careers Programme and the needs of individual pupils.

Development

This policy is reviewed annually by the Careers Leader and the Headteacher, in line with DfE guidance and Special Partnership Trust expectations. Updates reflect current best practice and statutory requirements.

Links with Other Policies

This policy is supported by and linked to:

- Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy
- Equality and Diversity Policy
- SEND Policy

Equality and Diversity

Brunel School promotes equal access to all providers. We ensure that pupils with SEMH needs communication differences or anxiety receive adapted, supported and inclusive access to information.

All pupils are encouraged to make decisions based on impartial, accurate information.

Requests for Access

Requests for access should be directed to:

Careers Leader: Dean Stacey

Email: dstacey@brunelschool.org

Telephone: 01803 665522

Providers should include:

- The purpose of the visit
- The year groups they wish to speak to
- The type of encounter requested
- Any resources or equipment required

Grounds for Granting Requests for Access

Access will be granted for providers to attend:

- School assemblies
- Timetabled PSHE or Careers lessons
- Careers or Raising Aspirations events
- Small-group or 1:1 sessions
- Supported off-site visits to providers
- Enrichment activities

Pupils may also visit external providers as part of planned careers activities.

Requests may be declined if:

- The timing clashes with examinations or key school events
- The content is not appropriate for our young people
- Safeguarding requirements cannot be met
- The request does not align with curriculum sequencing

Details of Premises or Facilities Provided

Brunel School will provide:

- A suitable room (classroom, meeting room or hall)
- Access to IT equipment (projector, screen, computer)
- Support from the Careers Leader or Careers Adviser
- Supervision always (in line with safeguarding requirements)

All safeguarding checks will be completed before any visit. Providers will be met and supervised by a member of staff.

Providers may leave prospectuses or digital materials for pupils and families.

Live/Virtual Encounters

Brunel School will consider live online encounters where appropriate. These may be broadcast into classrooms or the hall. Technology checks will be completed in advance to ensure compatibility.

Parents and Carers

Parents and carers may be invited to attend provider events to support informed decision-making.

Management

The Careers Leader coordinates all provider requests and reports to the Headteacher.

Complaints Procedure

Complaints regarding provider access should be directed to:

Name: *Dean Stacey*

Email: dstacey@brunelschool.org

If unresolved, the complaint will be escalated to:

Vikki Alden

Headteacher, Brunel School

Monitoring, Review and Evaluation

This policy is monitored and evaluated annually by the Senior Leadership Team. Evaluation includes:

- Pupil feedback
- Provider feedback
- Staff reflections
- Alignment with statutory requirements