

Provider Access Statement 2025–2026

Introduction

This statement sets out the school's arrangements for managing the access of education and training providers to pupils for the purpose of giving information about their technical education, apprenticeship, or traineeship offer.

It complies with the school's legal duties under:

- **Section 42B of the Education Act 1997**
 - **Skills and Post-16 Education Act 2022 (Provider Access Legislation – PAL)**
 - **DfE Statutory Guidance: Careers Guidance and Access for Education and Training Providers (January 2023, updated)**
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Pupil Entitlement

All pupils in **Years 7–13** are entitled to:

- Learn about **approved technical education qualifications and apprenticeship opportunities** as part of a careers programme that presents the full range of academic and technical options at each transition point.
- Hear from a **range of local and national providers**, including colleges, training providers, University Technical Colleges (UTCs), and employers offering apprenticeships or technical routes.
- Understand how to **apply** for the full range of academic, technical and vocational courses.

In addition, pupils in **Years 8–13** will receive **a minimum of six meaningful encounters** with providers of technical education and apprenticeships, as required by legislation:

- **Key Stage 3 (Years 8–9):** At least **two** encounters
- **Key Stage 4 (Years 10–11):** At least **two** encounters
- **Key Stage 5 (Years 12–13):** At least **two** encounters

Each encounter will include:

- Information about the provider and the qualifications it offers
 - Insight into the careers those qualifications lead to
 - Information about the learning/training environment
 - An opportunity for pupils to ask questions
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Management of Provider Access Requests

A provider wishing to request access should contact:

Mrs S Wilson — Careers Leader

Tel: **01249 766020**

Email: **swilson@sheldonschool.co.uk**

Providers should submit requests at least **six weeks** in advance, including:

- Preferred date(s) and time(s)
- Year groups targeted
- Overview of the information to be shared
- Any equipment or room requirements

Consideration of Requests

Requests will be considered against the following criteria (non-exhaustive):

- Availability of staff to support the visit
- Compatibility with the school timetable and calendar
- Potential clashes with examinations, events or trips
- Availability of appropriate rooms or facilities
- Safeguarding and visitor-compliance requirements

The school is committed to granting access wherever reasonable and will only decline requests where there is a clear and legitimate reason.

Opportunities for Access

A number of events, integrated into our careers programme, provide opportunities for providers to speak with pupils and/or parents. These may include:

- Career Talks and Presentations
- Assemblies
- Taster Sessions
- Subject Lessons or Workshops
- Options Information Events
- Apprenticeship/Technical Pathway Events
- Careers Fairs
- One-to-one or small-group guidance sessions

A detailed outline of provision for each year group is available in the **Careers Programme Overview** on the school website.

Providers will be offered a **reasonable period during the normal school day** to communicate with pupils.

Facilities and Resources

The school will make the following facilities available to providers where appropriate:

- Classrooms
- The main hall or lecture spaces
- Meeting rooms
- IT/AV equipment (projectors, speakers, screens)
- Online platforms (for virtual encounters, where appropriate)

The school will provide these facilities free of charge, subject to availability.

All visiting providers must comply with the school's **safeguarding procedures**, including signing in at reception and being accompanied where necessary.

Monitoring, Evaluation and Review

This policy is reviewed **annually** by the Careers Leader and approved by the **Governing Body**.

The next review is due: **September 2026**.

The school publishes this statement on its website to ensure transparency for pupils, parents, providers and external agencies.