

Provider Access Policy Statement

This policy sets out our schools' arrangements for providing opportunities for a range of education and training providers to access all our year 8 to 13 students, informing them about approved technical education qualifications and apprenticeships.

Ownership: Outcomes First Group

Rationale

High quality careers education and guidance in Smallbrook 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

Smallbrook School 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. Smallbrook 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.

Smallbrook endeavors to ensure that all students are aware of all routes to higher skills and can 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

The school'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 school before making crucial choices about their future options.
- To reduce drop out from courses and avoid the risk of students becoming NEET.

Student Entitlement

Smallbrook School 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:

- School assemblies / School speakers
- Annual visits to the Apprenticeship, Employment and skills shows.
- Focused sessions throughout National Apprenticeship Week.



- Curriculum based activities throughout National Careers Week.
- School annual careers fair: Students have access to information from a variety of providers Army, Police, NHS, hospitality providers, apprenticeship and internship providers and local colleges, both in Shropshire, Cheshire, and Northeast Wales
- Work experience placements linked to possible apprenticeship opportunities.

Safeguarding

Our safeguarding / child protection policy outlines the school procedure for checking the identity and suitability of all visitors to the school. Education and training providers will be expected to adhere to this policy.

Development

This policy has been developed and is reviewed annually by the Careers Leader and Line Manager 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. The school 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 Gemma Comerford, Careers Leader.

Gemma Comerford may be contacted by telephone or email :

gemma.comerford@smallbrookschool.org.uk Tel 01939 233042. / 07436226875

Grounds for granting requests for access.

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

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

Smallbrook School will provide an appropriate room or dining room to be agreed. Computer rooms can also be arranged. The Careers Leader 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

Smallbrook will consider live online encounters with providers where requested, and these may be broadcast into classrooms or the school's dining room. Technology checks in advance will be required to ensure compatibility of systems.

Parents and Carers

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

**Management**

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

Monitoring review and evaluation

The Policy is monitored and evaluated annually via the schools' careers lead.

Policy Owner: Lyndsay Grove-Guy

Policy: Admissions Policy

Date of Publication: September 2024

Last Review Date: June 2026

Next Review Date: June 2028 – or in the case of legislative change

Appendix

Providers who have been invited into the school to date include:

Telford College
Shrewsbury College
North - West Cheshire College
Coleg Cambria
British Army Recruitment team
Shropshire Fire and Rescue service
Reaseheath College
North Shropshire college
Renu Training
ANTA Education
SBS Training/Apprenticeships
Agric-cation CIC
ABP Apprenticeships
Derwen College
Aspris College
Landau College
AO Apprenticeships

Destinations of previous pupils include:

Reaseheath College
Coleg Cambria
Aspris College
Crossbar Training Provider