Provider Access Policy

Atlantic Academy

Version control	
Provider Access Policy 2026-06	Change of owner / policy reviewed
Provider Access Policy 2025-10	Sections 2.1 and 4.2: additional details added regarding new Gatsby Benchmarks requirements
Provider Access Policy 2024-05	New Policy

Date of next review:	June 2027	**Owner:**	Director of Education (Secondary)
Type of policy:	Outline template	**Approving body:**	EOB

Contents

1. Aims and rationale 1
2. Statutory requirements 2
3. Student entitlement 3
4. Management of provider access requests 3
5. Previous providers 5
6. Pupil destinations 5
7. Complaints 5
8. Links to other policies: 5
9. Monitoring arrangements 5

1. Aims and 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.

Atlantic Academy 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. Atlantic Academy 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.

Atlantic Academy 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 DfE, July 2021: "Baker Clause": supporting students to understand the full range of education and training options, and the Provider Access Legislation, January 2023).

This policy statement aims to set out our academy's arrangements for managing the access of education and training providers to students for the purpose of giving them information about their offer. It sets out:

- Procedures in relation to requests for access
- The grounds for granting and refusing requests for access
- Details of premises or facilities to be provided to a person who is given access

2. Statutory requirements

Schools are required to ensure that there is an opportunity for a range of education and training providers to access students in years 8 to 13 for the purposes of informing them about approved technical education, qualifications or apprenticeships.

Schools must provide a minimum of 6 encounters with technical education or training providers to all pupils in years 8 to 13 (see more detail in section 2.1 below).

Schools must also have a policy statement that outlines the circumstances in which education and training providers will be given access to these students.

This is outlined in section 42B of the Education Act 1997, the Skills and Post-16 Act 2022 and on page 43 of guidance from the Department for Education (DfE) on careers guidance and access for education and training providers.

This policy shows how our academy complies with these requirements.

2.1 The 6 encounters schools must offer to all pupils in years 8 to 13

All encounters should have prior preparation and post-evaluation content built in - this should focus on making these encounters meaningful and will involve reflection on what the students got out of it.

Schools must offer:

- 2 encounters for pupils during the 'first key phase' (year 8 or 9) that are mandatory for all pupils to attend
    - All pupils must attend
    - Encounters can take place any time during year 8, and between 1 September and 28 February during year 9
- 2 encounters for pupils during the 'second key phase' (year 10 or 11) that are mandatory for all pupils to attend
    - All pupils must attend
    - Encounters can take place any time during year 10, and between 1 September and 28 February during year 11
- 2 encounters for pupils during the 'third key phase' (year 12 or 13) that are mandatory for the academy to offer on but optional for pupils to attend
    - Pupils can choose to attend
    - Encounters can take place any time during year 12, and between 1 September and 28 February during year 13

These encounters must happen for a reasonable period of time during the standard academy day. Schools can continue to provide complementary experiences, but encounters outside of school hours won't count towards these requirements.

Schools must ask each provider to provide the following information as a minimum:

- Information about the provider and the approved qualifications or apprenticeships they offer
- Information about what careers those qualifications and apprenticeships can lead to
- What learning or training with the provider is like
- Answers to any questions from pupils

This will be delivered through careers curriculum and personal development programme in tutor time. In addition all students receive careers guidance and work experience.

2.2 Meaningful provider encounters

Atlantic Academy is committed to providing meaningful encounters to all pupils.

One encounter is defined as one meeting/session between pupils and one provider.

Meaningful live online engagement is also an option at our academy.

3. Student entitlement

All students in years 8 to 13 at Atlantic Academy are entitled to:

- Find out about technical education qualifications and apprenticeship opportunities as part of our careers programme, which provides information on the full range of education and training options available at each transition point
- Hear from a range of local providers about the opportunities they offer, including technical education and apprenticeships, through activities and events such as options events, assemblies and taster events.
- Understand how to make applications for the full range of academic and technical courses

4. Management of provider access requests

4.1 Procedure

A provider wishing to request access should contact the Head of Careers

Telephone: 01305 820262

Email: atlanticoffice@atlantic-aspirations.org

4.2 Opportunities for access

A number of events, integrated into our careers programme, will offer providers an opportunity to come into academy to speak to students and/or their parents/carers:

The calendar of events can be seen on our Careers Calendar

Please speak to our Careers Department to identify the most suitable opportunity for you.

These events will run in line with any measures related to public health incidents, including COVID-19.

4.3 Granting and refusing access

The only time where access may be delayed (rather than refused) is during and just before the examination season.

4.4 Safeguarding

Our Safeguarding and Child Protection policy outlines the academy's procedure for checking the identity and suitability of visitors.

Education and training providers will be expected to adhere to this policy.

4.5 Premises and facilities

The school will make the main hall, classrooms or private meeting rooms available for discussions between the provider and students, as appropriate to the activity. The school will also make available AV and other specialist equipment to support provider presentations. This will all be discussed and agreed in advance of the visit with the Head of Careers or relevant Head of House. Providers are welcome to leave a copy of their prospectus or other relevant course literature at the Careers Resource Centre, which is managed by the school librarian. The Resource Centre is available to all s students before school, at lunch and break times as well as after school.

5. Previous providers

In previous terms/years we have invited the following providers from the local area to speak to our pupils:

Budmouth Academy
Coastland College (Weymouth College and Kingston Maurward)
Education Development Trust

6. Pupils destinations

Last year, our year 11 pupils moved to a range of providers in the local area after the academy:

- Budmouth Academy
- Coastland College
- Coastland College - 6th Form
- Coastland College - Apprenticeship provider
- Coastland College - Kingston Maurward
- Straight into employment/apprenticeship opportunities

7. Complaints

Any complaints related to provider access can be raised following the Academy's Complaints Policy (available on the Academy's website or directly with The Careers & Enterprise Company via provideraccess@careersandenterprise.co.uk

8. Links to other policies:

- Safeguarding/child protection policy
- Complaints policy
- This policy supports and is underpinned by key school policies including those for Careers, Equality and Diversity, and SEND.

9. Monitoring arrangements

The academy's arrangements for managing the access of education and training providers to students are monitored by the Head of Careers.

This policy will be reviewed by the Head of Careers annually.

At every review, the policy will be approved by in accordance with procedures determined by the Regional Boar