

Statement Provider Access

Approved by:	Board of Trustees
Date:	Autumn term 2026
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Relating to:	 DURHAM SIXTH FORM CENTRE

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Links with other policies:

This Statement is linked to:

- Climate for Learning and Attendance Policy
- Complaints Procedure
- Equality Information Policy
- Teaching, Learning and Assessment Policy
- Safeguarding (Child Protection) Policy and Procedures
- Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Policy
- Statement of Intent - Curriculum

Please note, this is not an exhaustive list and does not include all school specific policies.

1. Introduction & Purpose Statement

- 1.1. This Statement sets out the school's arrangements for managing the access of providers to students at Durham Sixth Form Centre for the purposes of providing them with information about the provider's education or training offer.
- 1.2. For the purposes of this Statement, a 'provider' is an education, training or apprenticeship organisation that offers students information and opportunities relating to their education, training or employment pathways. Providers invited to engage with students should offer approved or recognised qualifications and/or training and be able to provide clear and accurate information about their provision, entry and recruitment requirements, what it is like to learn or train with them and the career pathways their programmes can lead to. All provider access is subject to the school's safeguarding requirements and case-by-case approval.
- 1.3. At Durham Sixth Form Centre, we aim to provide all our students with meaningful opportunities to explore a wide range of future options.
- 1.4. This Statement aims to set out the arrangements for managing the access of education and training providers to students at Durham Sixth Form Centre 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/facilities to be provided to a person who is given access.
- 1.5. We aim to:
 - Develop knowledge and awareness among our students of a range of career pathways available to them, including higher education, technical qualifications and apprenticeships.
 - Support students in learning more about opportunities for education and training outside of school before they make crucial choices about their future options.
 - Reduce drop-out from courses and avoid the risk of students becoming NEET (not in education, employment or training).

2. Legislation and Guidance

- 2.1. This Statement complies with the legal obligations under Section 42B of the [Education Act 1997](#), [the Education and Skills Act 2008](#), [Skills and Post-16 Act 2022](#) and guidance from the Department for Education (DfE) on [careers guidance and access for education and training providers](#).

3. Student Entitlement

- 3.1. Students at Durham Sixth Form Centre are entitled:
 - To find out about further education training, 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.
 - To hear from a range of local providers about the opportunities they offer, including technical education and apprenticeships, through options evenings, assemblies and group discussions and taster events.
 - To understand how to make applications for the full range of academic and technical courses.

- 3.2. Access to providers is available and promoted to allow all students to access information about providers of further education and apprenticeships. We are committed to encouraging all students to make decisions about their future based on impartial information.

4. Meaningful Encounters with Providers

- 4.1. Our school is committed to providing meaningful encounters with providers for all students.
- 4.2. A meaningful encounter:
- Is where the student can explore what it is like to learn, develop and succeed in that environment, e.g. what skills are valued and what it takes to be successful.
 - Involves meeting both staff and learners/trainees.
 - Has a clear purpose.
 - Is underpinned by learning outcomes that are appropriate to the needs of the student.
 - Involves a 2-way interaction between the student and the provider.
 - Includes information about the provider, such as their recruitment and selection processes, the qualifications that the provider offers and the careers these could lead to.
 - Describes what learning or training with the provider is like.
 - Is followed by opportunities for the student to reflect on the insights, knowledge or skills gained through the encounter.

5. Management of Provider Access Requests

Procedure

- 5.1. A provider wishing to request access should contact Matthew Gatiss, Progression and Employer Engagement Manager and Careers Leader, by telephone on 0191 383 0708 or via email: matthew.gatiss@durhamsixthformcentre.org.uk.
- 5.2. Each access request will be considered on a case-by-case basis and safeguarding procedures will be adhered to (see our Safeguarding Policy [here](#)).
- 5.3. There are some grounds where it is reasonable to refuse providers access. This could include when there are large scale internal events which could be disrupted such as student examination or mock examination periods or during times when there may be insufficient staffing such as school holidays.

Information we ask from providers

- 5.4. We ask each provider to provide the following information for our students:
- Information about your provision and the approved qualifications and apprenticeships you offer.
 - Information about what career routes those options could lead to.
 - Provide insights into what it might be like to learn or train with you.
 - Answer questions from students.

6. Opportunities for Access

- 6.1. We are committed to providing meaningful encounters to students. We have a number of events across Year 12 and 13 where students will have the opportunity to engage with a broad range of providers and employers, this includes events such as those listed below which demonstrate how we ensure that students have the opportunity to have a minimum of 6 encounters with providers whilst they study

with us. These encounters are offered before 28th February of Year 13, as per Provider Access Legislation.

- 6.2. There are a number of events integrated into the school's careers programme that offer providers an opportunity to come into Durham Sixth Form Centre to speak to students and/or their parents/carers. These events include a number of provider encounters which are optional for students to attend but they are always encouraged to do so, particularly if they have not yet decided their next steps.

Year 12		
Autumn Term	Spring Term	Summer Term
Careers Fair <i>An opportunity for all Y12 students to attend a careers and progression fair to engage with over 40 different providers and employers</i>	"Next Generation..." Programme Events <i>Bespoke programmes to support progression into competitive or complex progression pathways</i> - Parents Careers Conference <i>An opportunity for parents to hear from the Progression Team and a range of other providers and employers about popular progression pathways</i> - Widening Participation Student Talks <i>Students can drop in to hear about popular Y12 widening participation programmes and identify their eligibility</i> - Studying Abroad Student Talk <i>A bespoke session aimed at students looking to potentially study abroad</i>	"Next Generation..." Programme Events <i>Bespoke programmes to support progression into competitive or complex progression pathways</i> - Medical & Health Careers Conference <i>Medical and health professionals come on site and speak to students in a carousel format</i> - UCAS Exhibition <i>Students are taken off site to speak to a range of HE providers at a large, local venue</i> - Parents/Carers HE Evening <i>An opportunity for parents to come in and learn about the specific processes and experiences their students will go through in Y13</i> - Opportunities Week <i>A week off-timetable where students are encouraged to take part in work experience or other enrichment based activities</i>

Year 13		
Autumn Term	Spring Term	Summer Term
"Next Generation..." Programme Events <i>Bespoke programmes to support progression into competitive or complex progression pathways</i> - Widening Participation Student Talks <i>Students can drop in to hear about popular Y12 WP programmes and</i>	"Next Generation..." Programme Events <i>Bespoke programmes to support progression into competitive or complex progression pathways</i>	"Next Generation..." Programme Events <i>Bespoke programmes to support progression into competitive or complex progression pathways</i> - Apprenticeship Matching Service (two events) <i>A speed networking session with external employers and</i>

<i>identify their eligibility</i> ● Foundation Art Talk <i>An introduction to the DSFC Foundation Art programme for creative arts students</i>		<i>apprenticeship providers aimed at students yet to secure their progression routes.</i>
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- 6.3. A flexible approach has been adopted towards provider opportunities which can be accommodated in-person, remotely or through a blended approach.
- 6.4. In addition, Durham Sixth Form Centre offers a number of opportunities for provider encounters that are scheduled during main school hours and the provider is given a reasonable amount of time to, as a minimum (and as outlined in **para. 5.4**):
- Share information about both the provider and the approved technical education qualification 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.
 - Answer questions from students.
- 6.5. Please speak to the Progression and Employer Engagement Manager and Careers Leader (see **para. 5.1** for contact details) to identify the most suitable opportunity for you.

Working with parents and carers

- 6.6. We aim to involve parents and carers in our Careers Programme and welcome their attendance at encounters with providers in school such as our Year 12 Parents Careers Conference (see the table in **para. 6.2**).
- 6.7. If you are a parent/carers and would like to speak to the school about encounters with providers, please contact the Progression and Employer Engagement Manager and Careers Leader (see **para. 5.1** for contact details).
- 6.8. We also welcome feedback from parents/carers to help improve our offer of encounters with providers.

7. Safeguarding

- 7.1. Durham Sixth Form Centre's Safeguarding (Child Protection) Policy, available on the website [here](#), states that the Policy applies to members of the school and Trust community in its widest sense. Thus all visitors including education and training providers are expected to adhere to the Policy.
- 7.2. On arrival on site, providers will be met and supervised by a member of staff who will facilitate their visit.

8. Premises and Facilities

- 8.1. The school will provide a room for discussions between the provider and students, as appropriate to the activity. The school will also make available existing technological equipment, such as computers and screens, and other specialist equipment to support provider presentations.
- 8.2. This will be discussed and agreed in advance of the visit with the Progression and Employer Engagement Manager and Careers Leader, or a designated member of the Progression Team, who will work closely with the provider to ensure the facilities are appropriate to the session and audience.
- 8.3. Providers are welcome to leave a copy of their prospectus or other relevant course literature for distribution to students.
- 8.4. Online engagement is also an option and we are open to requests from providers that are able to provide live online engagement with our students.

9. Previous Providers

- 9.1. The following list outlines a small number of the many providers that have spoken to our students in recent years:

● ASK Apprenticeships ● Atom Bank ● Baltic Training ● Bishop Auckland College ● Civil Service ● Clifford Chance LLP ● Durham University ● Education Training Collective ● EY Foundation	● JP Morgan ● Learning Curve ● New College Durham ● Newcastle College ● Newcastle University ● The NHS ● Northumbria Police ● Northumbria University ● PwC	● SETA ● South West Durham Training ● Teesside University ● UCL Bartlett Architecture ● University of Cambridge ● University of Oxford ● University of Sunderland ● Zenith Training.
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10. Student Destinations

10.1. Students moved to a range of destinations and providers on completion of their studies at Durham Sixth Form Centre. This includes higher education providers, such as:

• Abertay University • Aberystwyth University • Arts University Bournemouth • Arts University Plymouth • Bangor University • Bath Spa University • Bristol, University of the West of England • Cardiff University • City of Sunderland College • De Montfort University • Durham University • Edge Hill University • Edinburgh Napier University • Imperial College London • Keele University • Lancaster University • Leeds Arts University • Leeds Beckett University • Leeds Conservatoire • Leeds Trinity University • Liverpool Hope University • Liverpool John Moores University • LMA • London School of Economics and Political Science, University of London • University Centre • Newcastle University	• Northumbria University, Newcastle • Norwich University of the Arts • Nottingham Trent University • Loughborough University • Manchester Metropolitan University • Middlesex University • New College Durham • Newcastle College Oxford Brookes University • Queen Mary University of London • Queen's University Belfast • Royal Holloway, University of London • Royal Veterinary College, University of London • Sheffield Hallam University • Teesside University, Middlesbrough • The Northern School of Art • The University of Edinburgh • UCEN Manchester • UCL (University College London) • University Centre Askham Bryan • University Centre Bishop Burton	• University Centre Myerscough • University for the Creative Arts • University of Aberdeen • University of Bradford • University of Chester • University of Cumbria • University of Derby • University of East Anglia UEA • University of East London • University of Essex • University of Hull • University of Kent • University of Leeds • University of Liverpool • University of Manchester • University of Northampton • University of Nottingham • University of Oxford • University of Reading • University of Salford • University of Sheffield • University of Southampton • University of St Andrews • University of Stirling • University of Sunderland • University of Surrey • University of the Arts London • University of Wolverhampton • University of York • York St John University.
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10.2. Apprenticeship, employment and further education providers, such as:

• Atom Bank • AWE • AZETS • Baker Hughes • Bowmer and Kirkland • Cintra HR and Payroll Services • Civil Service • Clifford Chance • Deloitte • Durham County Council • Durham Constabulary • DXC Technology • Ernst & Young	• Johnson Matthey • JP Morgan • KPMG • Land Registry • Little Haven Hotel • Meldrum • Network Rail • New College Durham • Northern Powergrid • Northumbria Police • Norton Rose Fulbright • Platts Physiotherapy • Precision 2000	• Robson Laidler • Rolls Royce • Royal Air Force • Tees Valley Education Trust • TekGem • TJM Legal • Townergate Insurance • Venator • Vertu Motors • Vistry Group • Vulcan Hygiene Ltd • Webahead • Wedlake Bell
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• Gentoo • Husqvarna • IPT • Jacobs	• Re:Gen • Ribchesters	
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11. Complaints

- 11.1. Any complaints related to provider access can be raised following the Complaints Procedure (available on the website [here](#)).

12. Monitoring Arrangements

- 12.1. The school's arrangements for managing the access of education and training providers to students are monitored by Lee Bone, Vice Principal.
- 12.2. This Statement will be reviewed on an annual basis and approved by the Providence Learning Partnership Board of Trustees.

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