

Winterhill - Provider Access Policy Statement, 2024 - 2025

(This complies with the school's legal obligations under Section 42B of the Education Act 1997. The Department of Education, July 2021: "Baker Clause" and the Provider Access Legislation, January 2023)

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.

Commitment:

The Winterhill 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. The Winterhill School 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.

The Winterhill School 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 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 Winterhill School 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 (Young people not in education, employment or training).

Student Entitlement

The Winterhill 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.

All pupils in years 8 to 13 are entitled:

- to find out about technical education qualifications and apprenticeships 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 events, assemblies and group discussions and taster events;
- to understand how to make applications for the full range of academic and technical courses. For pupils of compulsory school age these encounters are mandatory and there will be a minimum of two encounters for pupils during the 'first key phase' (year 8 to 9) and two encounters for pupils during the 'second key phase' (year 10 to 11)
- 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 (including the opportunity to meet staff and pupils from the provider)
- answer questions from pupils.

Meaningful provider encounters:

One encounter is defined as one meeting/session between pupils and one provider. Meaningful online engagement is also an option, and we are open to providers that are able to provide live online engagement with our pupils.

This will be done in assemblies, PCHSE and bespoke careers events.

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, Work experience, 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 Winterhill School is committed to encouraging all students to make decisions about their future based on impartial information.

Requests for access:

A provider wishing to request access should contact Tania Ashton-Bray, Careers Advisor, Telephone: 01709 740232 Email: tashton-bray@winterhill.org.uk

Grounds for granting requests for access:

Access will be given for providers to attend during school assemblies, timetabled Careers or Life lessons, and Careers or Raising Aspirations events that The Winterhill School is arranging.

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

The Winterhill School will provide an appropriate room or assembly hall to be agreed. All rooms have computers, projectors and screens provided. Computer rooms can also be arranged. The Careers Leader or Careers Adviser 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:

The Winterhill School will consider live online encounters with providers where requested, and these may be broadcast into classrooms or the school assembly hall. Technology checks in advance will be required to ensure compatibility of systems.

Parents and Carers:

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

Management:

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

Complaints Procedure:

Any complaints about this policy should be raised to Tania Ashton-Bray, Careers Advisor, Telephone: 01709 740232 Email: tashton-bray@winterhill.org.uk

Tania Ashton-Bray will raise the complaint to Dr Andrew Reeder, Deputy Head Teacher

Monitoring and review:

The policy is monitored and evaluated annually via the Senior Leadership Team

Policy Coordinator: Dr A Reeder**The person responsible: Dr A Reeder****Policy review: 12th September 2024****Appendix:**

Providers who have been invited into Winterhill School to date have included, plus others:

Rotherham College

Dearne Valley College

Thomas Rotherham Sixth Form

Barnsley College and Sixth Form

Sheffield College and Sixth Form

Chapelton Sixth Form

ASK Programme

AMRC

AESseal

The Esh Group

Morthyng Training

NOVA Arts

HeppSY