

Provider Access Policy Statement (PAL)

Access for colleges, training providers, university technical colleges, universities and all other post 16 providers, including technical, vocational and academic routes and apprenticeships
Updated February 2025

Yate Academy

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.

This policy statement sets out the arrangements for managing the access of providers to students for the purpose of giving them information about the provider's education or training offer.

Commitment

Yate Academy 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. Yate 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.

Yate 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 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

Yate Academy 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).

Pupil Entitlement:

Yate Academy fully supports the statutory requirement for students to have direct access to other providers of further education training, technical training and apprenticeships.

All students 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.

In line with the updated Provider Access Legislation, from January 2023, all schools must provide a minimum of six encounters for all students with post 16 providers, as above. This is broken down into key phases: -

Key Stage 3 – Year 8 or 9 Two encounters for students that are mandatory for all to attend

Key stage 4 - Year 10 or 11 Two encounters for students that are mandatory for all to attend

Key stage 5 - Year 12 or 13 Two encounters that are mandatory for the school to put on but optional for students to attend

These provider encounters will be scheduled during the main school hours and the provider will be given a reasonable amount of time to:

- 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 students from the provider)
- answer questions from all students, including our most vulnerable and those with additional learning needs

Yate Academy defines an encounter as at least 1 hour, during the school day.

The school day runs from 08.30am until 16:00 pm.

This complies with the school's legal obligations under Section 42B of the Education Act 1997. As part of our careers programme, we will consider requests from approved training, apprenticeship, technical and vocational education providers, including University Technical Colleges where appropriate, to speak to our students.

Yate Academy will also approach these providers directly when planning and organising key career related events throughout the school year such as school assemblies, webinars within the curriculum, including live events, careers engagement events.

The quality and impact of careers provision at Yate Academy is regularly reviewed by all stakeholders including: Senior Leadership Team, Governors, students and parent feedback and with the West of England Careers Hub.

Yate Academy has a range of facilities available for providers to use including an auditorium *to seat 220*, *dance studio space to offer workshops*, *conference room and classrooms for smaller workshops and we welcome lunchtime stands around the main Hub*

Development

This policy has been developed and is reviewed annually by the Careers Leader, Simon Matthews and Line Manager, Helen Brett-Reynolds, Assistant Head 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. Yate Academy is committed to encouraging all students to make decisions about their future based on impartial information.

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 Yate Academy is arranging. Students may also travel to visit another provider as part of the trip to be organised in partnership with **Yate Academy**.

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

Yate Academy 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

Yate Academy 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 of provider access requests

All requests made by providers should be emailed at least 6 weeks in advance of the expected date of the session.

In the first instance, requests by providers should be sent to: -

Name of Careers Leader: Simon Matthews

Careers Leader email address: smatthews@yateacademy.co.uk

Tel No: - [01454 333560](tel:01454333560)

Please include in the request / email

Careers Leader Name of provider requesting access & details of provision	
Contact Name at Provider and Contact Details	
Proposed date, time and length of session	
Names of all staff who propose to visit	All visitors will be subject to our safeguarding policy.
Aims and objectives of session including year group	

Complaints Procedure

Any complaints about this policy should be raised to **Simon Matthews**, email: smatthews@yateacademy.co.uk

Simon Matthews will raise the complaint to **Helen Brett-Reynolds (Assistant Head) or Eddie Rakshi (Head), of Yate Academy.**

Monitoring review and evaluation

The Policy is monitored and evaluated annually through the Leadership Team and Governing Body.

Policy Coordinator: Simon Matthews

Policy Reviewed: July 2025