MOSAIC LEARNING TRUST
Raising Aspirations, Empowering Futures

PROVIDER ACCESS POLICY STATEMENT

SOUTHLANDS HIGH SCHOOL
Endeavour for Excellence

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1. Aims

At Southlands High School we aim to provide all pupils from year 8 to 13 with meaningful opportunities to explore a wide range of future options.

This policy statement aims to set out our school's arrangements for managing the access of education and training providers to pupils 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 provider who is given access

As a school we aim to:

- Develop knowledge and awareness among our pupils of all career pathways available to them, including technical qualifications and apprenticeships
- Support pupils 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 pupils becoming NEET (not in education, employment or training)

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 pupils.

This is outlined in:

- Section 42B of the Education Act 1997
- Education and Skills Act 2008
- The School Information (England) Regulations 2008
- The Skills and Post-16 Education Act 2022
- Guidance from the Department for Education (DfE) on careers guidance and access for education and training providers

This policy shows how our school complies with these requirements.

3. Pupil Entitlement

As an 11-16 secondary school, all pupils in years 8 to 11 at Southlands High School are entitled to:

- Find out about further education training, 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, e.g. 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
- Have a minimum of 6 encounters with providers

These encounters must happen for a reasonable period of time during the standard school day.

As a school we can provide complementary experiences but encounters outside of school hours won't count towards these requirements.

We offer our pupils the encounters set out above, in line with the requirements'

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

The school will ensure that pupils with SEND and other vulnerable groups are able to access provider encounters and receive any reasonable adjustments required to enable full participation.

Pupils in year 7, 8 and 9
All pupils in these year groups are offered as a minimum:

- 2 encounters with education and training providers
  - All pupils must attend
  - Encounters can take place any time during year 7, 8, and between 1 September and 28 February during year 9

Pupils in year 10 and 11
All pupils in these year groups are offered, as a minimum:

- 2 encounters with education and training providers
  - All pupils must attend
  - Encounters can take place any time during year 10, and between 1 September and 28 February during year 11

3.1. Meaningful encounters with providers

Our school is committed to providing meaning encounters for all pupils.

A meaningful encounter:

- Is where the pupil can explore what it is like to learn, develop and succeed in that environment
- Involves meeting both staff and learners/trainees
- Has a clear purpose
- Is underpinned by learning outcomes that are appropriate to the needs of the pupil
- Involves a 2-way interaction between the pupil and the provider
- Includes information about the provider, such as their recruitment and selection processes, the qualifications that 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 pupil to reflect on the insights, knowledge or skills gained through the encounter

4. Management of Provider Access Requests

4.1. Procedure

A provider wishing to request access should contact the main school office who will direct your communication to the Careers Lead Miss N Winnard.

Telephone:01257 414 455
Email: winnardn@southlands.lancs.sch.uk

4.2. Information we ask from providers

As a school we ask each provider to provide the following information for our pupils:

- Information about your provision and the approved qualifications or apprenticeships you offer
- Information about what careers those qualifications and apprenticeships can lead to

- What learning or training with you is like
- Answers to any questions from pupil.

4.3. Opportunities for access

There are a number of events, integrated into our careers programme, that offer providers an opportunity to come into school to speak to pupils and/or their parents/carers.

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

The table below shows some examples of opportunities that providers may wish to engage with.

	AUTUMN TERM	SPRING TERM	SUMMER TERM
Year 7 - 9	• Future You Connect Sessions	• National Careers Week Activities • National Apprenticeship Week Activities • Future You Connect Sessions	Careers Carousel Future You Connect Sessions
Year 9 (Additional to above)	• Meeting with careers adviser (Inclusion)	• Future You options event	**No encounters – encounters must have taken place by 28 February**
YEAR 10	• Life skills – work experience preparation sessions • Assembly and tutor group opportunities – employability skills • Future You Connect Sessions • Meetings with careers adviser • Year 10 Thrive Evening	• Networking event with providers and employers • Technical/vocational tasters at local college/s, training providers • Future You Connect Sessions • Year 10 Progress Evening	• Work experience preparation sessions • Work experience • Technical/vocational tasters at local college/s, training providers • Future You Connect Sessions
YEAR 11	• Future You Connect Sessions • Post-16 provider open evenings • Post-16 apprenticeships assembly • Meetings with careers adviser • Post-16 applications • Year 11 GCSE Ready Evening	• Post-16 interviews • Apprenticeships – support with applications • Year 11 Progress Evening	**No encounters – encounters must have taken place by 28 February** Confirmation of post-16 education and training destinations for all pupils

4.4. Live online encounters

We will consider requests for live online encounters with providers, which may be broadcast into classrooms or the school assembly hall. We will need to carry out technology checks in advance to make sure systems are compatible.

4.5. Granting and refusing provider access requests
Each access request will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

We will grant access requests where there is opportunity for a positive contribution to our careers programme. Requests may be refused where they duplicate existing provision, do not support the aims of the careers programme, create safeguarding concerns, or where suitable opportunities cannot be accommodated within the school calendar.

4.6. Safeguarding
Our safeguarding/child protection policy outlines the school's procedure for checking the identity and suitability of visitors. You can find the policy on our school website.

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

4.7. Premises and facilities
We will provide an appropriate room or assembly hall, with the necessary equipment providers require to carry out their visit effectively – details will be agreed with the provider.

Providers are welcome to leave a copy of their prospectus or other relevant course literature with our Careers Lead.

Providers will be met and supervised by a member of staff who will facilitate their visit.

5. Working with Parents and Carers

We aim to involve parents and carers in our careers programme and welcome your attendance at encounters with providers in school when appropriate. Parents can also be involved by supporting students with tasks that relate to the encounters. Parents will be informed about any events via email.

If you would like to speak to the school about encounters with providers, please contact main reception who will direct your enquiry to the appropriate person.

We also welcome feedback from parents and carers to help improve our offer of encounters with providers.

Where parents have the opportunity to be present at an encounter, online feedback forms will be made accessible

6. Previous Providers

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

- Local College Providers
  - Runshaw College
  - Wigan and Leigh College
  - Cardinal Newman College
  - Preston College
  - Myerscough College
  - Steve Gerrad Academy

- Local Employers have visited our careers fair from the following sectors
  - Public Services
  - The NHS
  - The Armed Forces
  - Engineering
  - Finance and Accounting
  - Social Care

7. Pupil Destination

As part of our commitment to ensuring all pupils are exposed to the full range of post-16 academic, technical, and vocational pathways, we track and publish a summary of our Year 11 leaver destinations annually. This data illustrates the diverse progression routes chosen by our students and highlights the ongoing impact of our careers program.

In the 2024/2025 cohort, 204 students completed their Key Stage 4 education. The verified sustained destination breakdown for these leavers is detailed below:

Post-16 Pathway / Destination Route	Percentage of Cohort (%)
School Sixth Form (Academic / Applied A-Levels)	0.5%
Sixth Form College or Further Education (FE) College	85%
Apprenticeships (Intermediate & Advanced)	7%
Work-Based / Work-Ready Training Providers	1%
Employment (with regulatory training)	1.5%
Other / NEET / Awaiting Destination	5%

To help our Key Stage 4 students make informed choices, our school regularly invites education, training, and apprenticeship providers to host encounters. In recent terms, our Year 11 students have progressed to or engaged with the following regional institutions:

Colleges & Sixth Forms: Runshaw College, Wigan & Leigh College, Cardinal Newman College, Myerscough College, Steven Gerrard Academy

8. Complaints

Any complaints related to provider access can be raised following the Trust's complaints procedure found on the school website.

9. Links to Other Policies

Outline any links to other policies you have, such as:

- Safeguarding/child protection policy
- Careers guidance policy
- Complaints policy

10. Monitoring Arrangements

Our school's arrangements for managing the access of education and training providers to pupils are monitored by Miss N. Winnard – Deputy Headteacher

The school will annually review the range, frequency and impact of provider encounters to ensure continued compliance with provider access legislation and the Gatsby Benchmarks.

This policy will be reviewed by Miss N. Winnard – Deputy Headteacher annually and approved by the governing board at every review.