



Limehurst Academy Policy Document

Subject: Provider Access Policy

Date Approved by Governors: Autumn 2026

Review Date: Autumn 2027

Headteacher's signature:

Chair of Governors' signature:

Introduction

This policy statement sets out the school's arrangements for managing the access of providers to the school for the purpose of giving them information about the provider's education or training offer. This complies with the school's legal obligations under Section 42B of the Education Act 1997. It has been developed and is reviewed annually by the Careers Leader and the Senior Leadership Team and is based on current good practice guidelines by the Department for Education. It supports and is underpinned by key school policies including those for Careers, Child Protection, Equality and Diversity, and SEND.

It is critical that young people receive high quality careers education and guidance in school or college to help to prepare them for the world of work. It supports them to acquire the self-development and career management skills that they need to enter jobs and careers that they find engaging. This, in turn, improves their life opportunities and contributes to a productive and successful economy.

As the number of apprenticeships rises every year, it becomes increasingly important that all young people know the range of options open to them post-16 and post-18.

Commitment

Limehurst 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. Limehurst 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.

Limehurst 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

Limehurst Academy's 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

Limehurst Academy 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. This will be done in assemblies in National Apprenticeship Week and National Careers Week, in addition to providers attending careers events at school. Access to providers is promoted to allow all students to access information about other providers of further education and apprenticeships. Limehurst Academy is committed to encouraging all students to make decisions about their future based on impartial information.

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, 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).

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

- 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. We are committed to providing meaningful encounters to all pupils using the “Making it meaningful” checklist.

Meaningful online engagement is also an option, and we are open to providers that are able to provide live online engagement with our pupils.

Previous providers

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

- Apprenticeship Knowledge Support Programme
- Charnwood College
- De Lisle College
- DHL Apprenticeship Development
- Loughborough College
- Rawlins Academy
- SMB College Group
- The British Army
- Leicestershire Education Business Company

Destinations of our pupils

Last year our year 11 pupils moved to range of providers in the local area after school, with approximate proportions of the cohort shown:

- Charnwood College 1%
 - Loughborough College 54%
 - Loughborough Grammar School 2%
 - Rawlins Academy 34%
 - SMB College Group 6%
 - Wyggeston and Queen Elizabeth 1 College 3%
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Management of provider access requests

Procedure

A provider wishing to request access should contact our Careers Leader, Miss H Aldridge. haldridge@limehurst.org.uk.

Access will be given for providers to attend during school assemblies, timetabled Careers lessons, or other Careers events that Limehurst Academy is arranging.

The school reserves the right to decline requests for a number of reasons, including (but not restricted to) the following:

- if such attendance would provide an imbalanced view of available provision (e.g. several apprenticeship providers at an event and no colleges);
- if the provider's input would not be relevant to a particular event if the request is not timely (e.g. students have already heard from similar providers during the year, or if they are involved in end of year exams);
- if the information is not seen to be in the best interest of pupils or there are concerns about the ethics or quality of the provision. In such cases, Head of School or the Careers Leader would inform the provider of this decision and the reason why.
- If the provider wishes to appeal this decision, they can contact the Head of School. If the provider wishes to appeal the decision received from the Head of School, they should contact the Chair of Governors at the school.

Opportunities for access

The school offers the six provider encounters required by law (marked below in bold text) and a number of additional events, integrated into the school careers programme. We will offer providers an opportunity to come into school to speak to pupils or their parents or carers.

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

Two encounters for pupils during the 'first key phase' (years 8 and 9) that are mandatory for all pupils to attend.

1. Year 8 – by end of Spring Term with a provider of approved technical education qualifications and/or apprenticeships – (Exact date to be agreed with provider) – Assemblies are held on Monday morning 8.55 – 9.55am

2. Year 9 – by end of Autumn Term with a provider of approved technical education qualifications and/or apprenticeships – (Exact date to be agreed with provider) – Assemblies are held on Monday morning 8.55 – 9.55am

Two encounters for pupils during the ‘second key phase’ (years 10 or 11) that are mandatory for all pupils to attend.

3. Year 10 – by end of Spring Term with a provider of approved technical education qualifications and/or apprenticeships – (Exact date to be agreed with provider) – Assemblies are held on Monday morning 8.55 – 9.55am
4. Year 11 – by end of Autumn Term with a provider of approved technical education qualifications and/or apprenticeships – (Exact date to be agreed with provider) – Assemblies are held on Monday morning 8.55 – 9.55am

In addition to the mandatory encounters, we will offer providers further opportunities to come into school to speak to pupils or their parents/carers.

Opportunities include:

1. Assembly Slots - Mondays 8.55 – 9.55am
2. Curriculum-based Careers talks
3. Mock interviews
4. In School Workshops available

The school’s policy on safeguarding sets out the school’s approach to allowing providers into school as visitors to talk to our students.

Premises and facilities

The school will make the main hall, classrooms or private meeting rooms available for discussions between the provider and pupils, 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 Careers Leader or a member of their team. Appropriate safeguarding checks will be carried out.

Meaningful online engagement is also an option and we are open to providers that are able to provide live online engagement with our pupils.

Providers are welcome to leave a copy of their prospectus or other relevant course literature at our school reception.

Complaints

Any complaints with regards to provider access can be raised following the school complaints procedure or directly with The Careers & Enterprise Company via provideraccess@careersandenterprise.co.uk.

Approval and review

This policy will be monitored and reviewed on an annual basis, to ensure that current legislation and best practice is recorded.