Ormiston Academies Trust

Ormiston Bridge Academy

Provider access policy statement (PAL)

Access for colleges, training providers, universal technical colleges, universities, and all other post-16 providers, including technical, vocational, and academic routes and apprenticeships.

Policy version control

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1. Introduction

1.1. Ormiston Bridge Academy is committed to supporting our students to make informed decisions about their future pathways. We act impartially, in line with our statutory duties, to ensure that we promote a full range of academic routes, technical routes, and apprenticeships. We believe that it is vital to ensure that all pupils are aware of the benefits of apprenticeships, T levels and other approved technical qualifications and can consider them, alongside academic options, when making decisions about their next steps, aiming to reduce drop out from courses and avoid the risk of students becoming NEET (Young people not in education, employment, or training).

1.2. The quality and impact of careers provision at Ormiston Bridge Academy is monitored by the Career Leader, our Senior Leadership Team, the National Lead Practitioner Enrichment Careers and OAT, based on current good practice guidelines by the Department for Education, Gatsby Benchmarks and Careers and Enterprise Company (CEC). Access and opportunity to engage with technical, vocational, and training providers will form part of this process.

1.3. Links with other policies. This policy supports and is underpinned by key school policies, including those for Careers, Child protection, Equality and diversity, and SEND.

1.4. 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. Ormiston Bridge Academy is committed to encouraging all students to make decisions about their future based on impartial guidance.

2. Pupil entitlement

2.1. Meaningful provider encounters

2.1.1. 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.

Making it Meaningful: Benchmark 7 | CEC Resource Directory (careersandenterprise.co.uk)

2.1.2. As part of our careers programme, we will consider requests from approved training, apprenticeship, technical and vocational educational providers, including University Technical Colleges where appropriate, to speak to our students. Ormiston Bridge 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 management events and parents' evenings.

2.2. Pupil entitlement

2.2.1. The Baker Clause is legally enforceable, and our academy is committed to meeting its requirements. 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

2.3. Minimum two provider encounters per phase

2.3.1. All schools must provide a **minimum of two encounters** with providers of technical education or apprenticeships **at each key phase of their education**:

- Phase 1 - the period beginning at the same time as the school year in which the majority of pupils in the pupils' class attain the age of 13 and ending with 28 February in the following school year (Year 8 and between 1 September and 28 February during Year 9)
- Phase 2 - the period beginning at the same time as the school year in which the majority of pupils in the pupils' class attain the age of 15 and ending with 28 February in the following school year (Year 10 and between 1 September and 28 February during Year 11)
- Phase 3 - the period beginning at the same time as the school year in which the majority of pupils in the pupils' class attain the age of 17 and ending with 28 February in the following school year (Year 12 and between 1 September and 28 February during Year 13)

This entitlement is in line with the updated Department for Education Provider Access Legislation, from January 2023, and the DfE Statutory Careers Guidance, May 2025,

These six meetings are timed to inform consideration of post-14, post-16 and post-18 options and progression to the next stage of education or training. This gives pupils the opportunity to consider how studying or training in different ways, and in different environments, beyond academic education might suit their skills, interests, and aptitudes.

2.3.2. For pupils of compulsory school age these encounters are **mandatory** for all to attend and there will be a minimum of two encounters for **year 8 to 9** pupils and two encounters for **year 10 to 11** pupils. For pupils in **year 12 to 13**, particularly those that have not yet decided on their next steps, there are two more provider encounters available during this period, which are optional for pupils to attend.

2.3.3. Schools should encourage all pupils to attend the encounters. However, optional attendance for older pupils recognises that, while many 16- to 18-year-olds will benefit from finding out more about post-18 technical options, some will already have made a firm decision to pursue their chosen pathway.

2.3.4. The Provider Access Legislation includes flexibility for schools to arrange encounters with the same provider across more than one 'key phase.' For example, a school may invite an FE college to talk to pupils in the first key phase (year 8 to 9) about key stage 4 options and to talk to pupils in

the second key phase (year 10 to 11) about post-16 options. However, within the same key phase, schools must always provide meaningful encounters with two different providers to meet the legal requirement. Schools should also ensure appropriateness of the encounters for learners with SEND.

2.3.5. In schools, the governing body must make sure that learners in years 8 to 13 receive at least six encounters with a provider of technical education or apprenticeships.

2.4. Content of the provider encounters

2.4.1. Ormiston Bridge Academy will ensure that each registered pupil meets with a representative range of education and training providers and that the providers will provide the following set of prescribed information, as a minimum:

- Information about the provider and the approved technical education qualifications or apprenticeships that the provider offers;
- Information about the careers to which those technical education qualifications or apprenticeships might lead;
- A description of what the learning or training with the provider is like; (including the opportunity to meet staff and students from the provider) and
- Responses to questions from the pupils (including our most vulnerable and those with additional learning needs) about the provider or technical education qualifications and apprenticeships.

2.4.2. Where practical, our registered students will have access to a university technical college

2.4.3. Ormiston Bridge Academy will ensure that the six encounters happen for a reasonable period of time during the standard school day. Provider encounters that take place outside of school hours, for example parent's evening's, do not count towards fulfillment of the legal requirement for six provider encounters, but schools are still encouraged to provide these complimentary experiences for parents and their parents/carers.

2.4.4. Parental/carer involvement is encouraged, and parents/carers may be invited to attend events to meet with providers.

3. Management of provider access requests

3.1. Procedure

3.1.1 This part of the policy statement sets out the school's arrangements for managing the access of providers to pupils at the school for the purposes 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, the legal duty known as the 'Baker Clause', 2018 and the Skills and Post-16 Education Act 2022.

3.1.2 A provider wishing to request delivering a provider access session to pupils should contact Hannah Codjoe, Wave Leader and CIEAG Lead. All requests made by providers should be emailed at least 6 weeks in advance of the expected date of the session.

Telephone: 0203 108 0345 Email: hcodjoe@obramail.co.uk

3.1.3 The academy will then work with providers to identify the most effective opportunity for them to share information about education and training opportunities. The Careers Leader will prepare for each provider visit by notifying students and their parents/carers to consult the provider website for background information, including details of the courses and qualifications that the provider offers and their Ofsted grade.

3.2. Opportunities for a provider visit

3.2.1. Providers will be invited to contribute to academy events integrated into the school careers programme, these will offer providers an opportunity to come into school to speak to pupils and/or their parents/carers. The academy will make provider visits available to all students in the relevant year group.

3.2.2. The Careers Leader will ensure that the provider visit will be for a 'reasonable period of time during the standard school day.' The Academy Day runs from 9.15am until 2.45pm

3.2.3. The academy offers a comprehensive careers education programme. The academy is committed to working with other providers to ensure our pupils can make informed decisions about future choices. Where possible, we like to align visits with our programmed calendar of Career Education, Information and Guidance (CEIAG) (see below). As a provider, please speak to our named Careers Leader to identify the most suitable opportunity for you.

3.2.4. Once a provider visit request has been submitted, the Academy Careers Leader will respond within 10 working days. All requests will be given due consideration by the designated Careers Leader and Senior Leadership Team.

3.2.5. Once the request has been granted, we will ask you for a range of information to share with our pupils and parents/carers before the session. This may include a prospectus, letter, or presentation.

3.2.6. This should include:

- Details of the opportunities you offer, including technical education, courses, and entry requirements.
- What is the learning like in your institution?
- How do you prepare students for their best next step on successful completion of your course/training?
- Provide examples of linking courses with careers relating to the labour market and recent positive destinations of pupils who have completed their learning with you.

3.2.7. Requests will be considered against:

- Clashes with other planned activities or visits

- Interruption to preparation for public or internal examinations
- Availability of school staff, space, and resources to host the session
- All requests will also be considered in line with the academy's Safeguarding policy. For questions on this policy statement or the wider careers programme at Ormiston Bridge Academy please do not hesitate to contact us.
- Ormiston Bridge Academy will keep a log of all provider requests for access and the outcomes and record on Compass+ to support delivery and evaluation of the careers programme.

	Autumn Term	Spring Term	Summer Term
KS3	Assembly and tutor group opportunities	Meetings with careers adviser Assembly and tutor group opportunities	Technical/vocational tasters at within the academy to help decide options for KS4. Meetings with careers adviser Assembly and tutor group opportunities
Year 10	Life Skills – work experience preparation sessions Meetings with careers adviser Assembly and tutor group opportunities	Technical/vocational tasters at local college/s, training providers Meetings with careers adviser Assembly and tutor group opportunities	Life skills – assembly and tutor group opportunities Meetings with careers adviser Assembly and tutor group opportunities
Year 11	Post 16 provider open evenings: opportunities to visit local Further Education and sixth form colleges, other school UTCs, Studio schools and other training providers regarding A level, Applied General, technical, and	Post-16 interviews Assembly and tutor group opportunities	Confirmation of post 16 education destinations for all students

	Autumn Term	Spring Term	Summer Term
	vocational and apprenticeships. Meetings with careers adviser Post 16 applications Careers Events Assembly and tutor group opportunities		

3.2.8. The academy policies on safeguarding and visitor's sets out the school's approach to allowing providers into school as visitors to talk to our students. These can be found on the school website.

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

- Construction Youth Trust
- William Morris Sixth Form School
- Lyric Theatre
- National Careers Service
- 2-3 Degrees
- Local authority 'At risk of NEET' programme

3.3. Previous pupil destinations

3.3.1. Last year our Year 11 pupils moved to a range of providers in the local area after school including apprenticeships, level 3 courses at local Further Education providers and traineeships.

Data from 2024/25 highlights the following:

Measure	2024/25
Students with a confirmed EET destination at the end of year 11	89%

Students successfully starting EET in the September after year 11	53%
Students confirmed as NEET in the September after year 11	10%
Students being supported by Targeted Prevention Team (TPT) to secure EET	16%
Students whose destination is not known in the September after year 11	21%

4. Premises and facilities

4.1. The school will make the main hall, sports hall and classrooms or private meeting rooms available for discussions between the provider and students, as appropriate to the activity. The school will also make available projectors and other specialist equipment to support provider presentations. This will all be discussed and agreed in advance of the visit with the Careers Leaders or a member of the academy team.

4.2. Meaningful online engagement is also an option, and we are open to providers that are able to provide online engagement with our students. Technology checks in advance will be required to ensure compatibility with systems.

4.3. Providers are welcome to leave or send a copy of their prospectus or other relevant course literature to the academy Careers Leader, who will ensure that this is placed in the appropriate careers area of the academy. This area is available to all students at break and lunchtime.

4.4. If a provider wishes to raise a complaint with regards to provider access, this should in the first instance be directed to:

Name: Sophia Martin Role: Principal

Telephone: 0203 108 0345 Email: smartin@obramail.co.uk

Appendix 1

The academy should ensure that the table in Appendix 2 is completed ahead of the scheduled meeting

Name of the provider requesting access & details of provision	*e.g., West London College Hammersmith, Further Education College, and Apprenticeship provider for 16–18-year-old students*
Contact name at Provider and contact details	Name and Job title: Email address: Telephone number
Proposed date, time, and length of session	
Number of staff who propose to visit	All visitors will be subject to our safeguarding policy. A DBS check will not be required. Safeguarding-and-Child-Protection-Policy.pdf Persons acting on behalf of a provider may represent the provider, or accompany the provider, if they are particularly well placed to engage and inform pupils about the options available. For example, a University Technical College or an apprenticeship provider may ask to bring a key employer with them on a provider visit.
Aims and objectives of session including year group	*e.g., Year 10 assembly Post 16 Options including entry requirements, courses available, labour market information & sectors relating to courses, positive destinations on completion of courses.*

Please demonstrate which Gatsby Benchmarks relate to the session and how (link to information re Gatsby Benchmarks Good Career Guidance | Education | Gatsby	*e.g.,* ***BM1*** *After reading Careers Programme support to further enhance this* ***BM4*** *linking GCSE subjects to career related learning and future progression routes* ***BM7*** *Provide a meaningful encounter of further education*
Proposed format, timings, and duration of the session including facilities and equipment required	*e.g., One hour assembly, theatre, or main hall to accommodate year group. PowerPoint presentation including videos. Questions and answers session for students. Literature to be taken away following assembly.*
Support required from Ormiston Bridge Academy **including staffing**	To enable the academy to provide appropriate supervision.