



Careers Provider Access Policy Statement

Date approved: 17 September 2025
Review cycle/date: Annual
Party responsible: Full Governing Body
Linked policies:

Introduction

High quality careers education and guidance in school 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 including wider technical education options such as T-Levels and Higher Technical Qualifications.

The 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 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 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 Swanage 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 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 for every student to have at least six encounters with providers of approved technical education qualifications or apprenticeships between Year 7 and 11. This will be done in a range of relevant and student appropriate ways including assemblies in National Apprenticeship Week and National Careers Week, in addition to providers attending careers events at school.

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. The school is committed to encouraging all students to make decisions about their future based on impartial information.

Requests for access

Requests for access should be directed to **Steph Humby**, Careers Leader. Please contact the school office by phone on 01929 500599 or by email with any careers-related enquiries.

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 school is arranging. Students may also travel to visit providers.

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

The 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 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, Steph Humby, coordinates all provider requests and is responsible to her senior management line manager. The Careers Leader is supported by the governors' Advisor on Careers, Nicola Newman.

Complaints Procedure

See Complaints Policy on the school website.

Monitoring, review and evaluation

The Policy is monitored and reviewed annually by the Full Governing Body and the Careers Leader

Appendix

Providers who have been invited into The Swanage School to date include:

1. Coastland College
2. Bournemouth University (post-18)

Destinations of previous pupils from The Swanage School:

For post-16 education, former students attend sixth form or colleges including The Purbeck School Sixth Form, Lytchett Minster Sixth Form, Poole Grammar Sixth Form, Parkstone Grammar Sixth Form, Bournemouth & Poole College, Weymouth College and Brockenhurst College. Several former students have gone on to train at The Dorset Foundation College for Performing Arts for their post-16 education. Beyond this, former students have taken many routes, including degrees, apprenticeships and work. Universities attended by former students cover the breadth of the country, from Plymouth University to Aberdeen University to Queen's University Belfast. Others include York, Exeter, Oxford, Sussex, Surrey, Southampton, Nottingham, London and the Italia Conti Academy of Theatre Arts.