The Bishop of Hereford's Bluecoat School

Provider Access Policy

SLT Lead: Assistant Headteacher

Governor Committee Approval: AQT

Review Date: September 2027

The school's vision

Jesus said: "I have come that they may have life, life in all its fullness." This serves as the cornerstone of our school community. By fostering a culture of positive learning experiences rooted in core Christian values, we aim to equip our students for a life of resilience, fulfilment, and meaningful contribution to society.

This policy supports our school vision and ethos.

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1. Aims

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

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 students 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 students.

This is outlined in section 42B of the Education Act 1997, the Skills and Post-16 Act 2022 and on page 43 of 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.

2.1 The 6 encounters schools must offer to all students in years 8 to 11

Schools must offer:

- 2 encounters for students during the 'first key phase' (year 8 or 9)
    - All students must attend
    - Encounters can take place any time during year 8, and between 1 September and 28 February during year 9
- 2 encounters for students during the 'second key phase' (year 10 or 11)
    - All students must attend
    - Encounters can take place any time during year 10, and between 1 September and 28 February during year 11

These encounters must happen for a reasonable period of time during the standard school day. Schools can continue to provide complementary experiences, but encounters outside of school hours won't count towards these requirements.

Schools must ask each provider to provide the following information as a minimum:

- Information about the provider and the approved qualifications or apprenticeships they offer
- Information about what careers those qualifications and apprenticeships can lead to
- What learning or training with the provider is like
- Answers to any questions from students

At Bishops School these encounters will be provided through our assembly programme.

2.2 Meaningful provider encounters

Our school is committed to providing meaningful encounters to all students.

1 encounter is defined as 1 meeting/session between students and 1 provider.

Meaningful live online engagement is also an option at our school.

3. Student entitlement

All students in years 8 to 11 at The Bishop of Hereford's Bluecoat School are entitled to:

- Find out about 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 careers evenings, visits from employers to lessons, assemblies and taster events
- Understand how to make applications for the full range of academic and technical courses

4. Management of provider access requests

4.1 Procedure

A provider wishing to request access should contact Mrs Lisa Williams, Careers Adviser on 01432 347538 or lwilliams@bhbs.hereford.sch.uk

4.2 Opportunities for access

A number of events, integrated into our careers programme, will offer providers an opportunity to come into school to speak to students and/or their parents/carers:

Year Group	Autumn Term	Spring Term	Summer Term
Year 7	Skills for Life lessons, assembly and tutor group opportunities.	Skills for Life lessons (eg careers in the NHS), assembly and tutor group opportunities	Skills for Life lessons assembly and tutor group opportunities
Year 8	Skills for Life lessons, assembly and tutor group opportunities Post-16 apprenticeships assembly	Skills for Life, assembly and tutor group opportunities	Skills for Life, assembly and tutor group opportunities
Year 9	Careers Fair Skills for Life, assembly and tutor group opportunities Post-16 apprenticeships assembly	Skills for Life, assembly and tutor group opportunities Year 9 Pathways evening and individual interviews to support options	Skills for Life, assembly and tutor group opportunities
Year 10	Careers Fair Skills for Life, assembly and tutor group opportunities CV writing and job interview skills	Mock Interviews Skills for Life, assembly and tutor group opportunities	Work Experience College Taster days Skills for Life, assembly and tutor

		Work experience preparation lessons	group opportunities
Year 11	Careers Fair Year 11 careers interviews and support with applications Skills for Life, assembly and tutor group opportunities Post-16 apprenticeships assembly Post-16 technical education options assembly with General Further Education College	College Taster Days Year 11 careers interviews and support with applications Skills for Life, assembly and tutor group opportunities	Skills for Life, assembly and tutor group opportunities Pre-enrolment interviews

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

4.3 Granting and refusing access

We will endeavor to provide our students with many opportunities to explore the benefits of technical qualifications and apprenticeships. The careers advisor and careers lead meet regularly to discuss ways to integrate such opportunities into the school calendar. Permission will be granted if there is capacity to hold such an event.

The school has the grounds for granting and refusing requests for access. We may refuse if we have concerns about safeguarding or there is limited opportunity because of other activities/events taking place.

4.4 Safeguarding

Our safeguarding/child protection policy outlines the school's procedure for checking the identity and suitability of visitors. Access can be refused if the correct DBS detail is not provided or if the content is not deemed appropriate.

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

4.5 Premises and facilities

The careers advisor will liaise with the provider to identify the room(s) required, access to specialist equipment such as audio and visual devices and refreshments.

The school will make the main hall, sports hall, classrooms or private meetings rooms available for discussions between the provider and students, as appropriate to the activity.

Providers are welcome to leave a copy of their prospectus or other relevant course literature with Mrs Williams and in the Library.

5. Previous providers

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

- HWGTA
- Riverside training
- Herefordshire and Ludlow College
- The NHS
- The Army
- AllPay
- The Navy
- Network Rail
- Lanyon Bowdler

6. Student destinations

In previous years our year 11 students moved to a range of providers in the local area after School including:

- HWGTA
- Riverside training
- Herefordshire and Ludlow College
- The Army

7. Complaints

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

8. Links to other policies

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

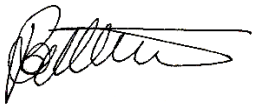
9. Monitoring arrangements

The school's arrangements for managing the access of education and training providers to students are monitored by Jonathan Nicholas who is an Assistant Headteacher.

This policy will be reviewed by Jonathan Nicholas annually
At every review, the policy will be approved by the governing board.

Approval and review

Approved by the Achievement & Quality of Teaching Committee



Signed: ……

Mr R Matthews - Chair of AQT Committee

Date: ……05/11/2026……