Provider Access Policy

Member of Staff Responsible: Careers Leader - RHO
Date of Last Review: September 2026
Next Review Date: September 2027
No changes made: September 2026

This policy has been reviewed and impact assessed in line with all other school policies, including the Disability Equality Scheme.

1. Introduction

This policy statement sets out Parkside Community School's arrangements for managing the access of education, training, and apprenticeship providers to pupils, in line with our legal obligations under **Section 42B of the Education Act 1997** and the **updated provider access legislation (PAL) effective from January 2023**.

The policy ensures that all pupils in **Years 8 to 11** have meaningful opportunities to hear from a range of providers about the **technical education, apprenticeship, and training options** available to them post-16.

2. Pupil Entitlement

All pupils in Years 8 to 11 are entitled to:

- Find out about **technical education qualifications** and **apprenticeship opportunities** as part of a rich, well-structured careers programme.
- Hear from a **variety of local providers**, including colleges, universities, apprenticeship organisations, and employers, through careers events, assemblies, small group sessions, and taster activities.
- Understand the full range of **post-16 academic and technical routes**, and how to apply for them confidently and successfully.

In line with statutory guidance, pupils will be offered a **minimum of six encounters** with approved providers of apprenticeships and technical education between Years 8 and 11:

- **Two encounters in Year 8 or 9**
- **Two encounters in Year 10**
- **Two encounters in Year 11**

These encounters will be:

- **Scheduled during school hours**
- **Inclusive** and made available to all pupils
- Designed to be **meaningful**, with opportunities to:

- Learn about the provider and the qualifications or apprenticeships offered
- Understand related career pathways and opportunities
- Gain insights into training environments
- Ask questions and engage directly with staff or current learners

3. Meaningful Provider Encounters

We define a **meaningful encounter** as a well-structured session that helps students make informed decisions about their future. We use the **Gatsby Benchmarks** and the **Making it Meaningful checklist** to ensure these sessions meet the highest standards of quality and relevance.

4. Previous Providers

We regularly work with a wide range of local and regional providers, including:

- Chesterfield College
- Tupton Hall Sixth Form
- Brookfield Sixth Form
- Dronfield Henry Fanshawe Sixth Form (DHFS)
- Juniper Training
- ASK Apprenticeships
- United Cast Bar
- HEPP (Higher Education Progression Partnership)
- White Rose Beauty College

5. Destinations of our Pupils

Our Year 11 leavers move on to a variety of exciting pathways:

- **66%** progressed to **Chesterfield College**
- **20%** moved to **sixth forms**, including Tupton Hall, Brookfield, and DHFS
- The remaining students opted for **apprenticeships**, **training providers**, or **technical routes**

6. Requesting Access

If you are a provider wishing to visit our school and speak to pupils, please contact:

School Office on the following email:

info@parkside**.derbyshire.sch.uk**

We will be happy to discuss suitable dates and opportunities as part of our careers programme.

7. Opportunities for Access

A range of events is built into our careers calendar to provide access to pupils and/or parents. These include:

- Careers assemblies
- Options evenings
- Apprenticeship and college fairs
- Small group workshops and presentations
- National Careers Week and Apprenticeship Week events

We are flexible and open to arranging **in-person** or **virtual sessions**.

8. Premises and Facilities

We are able to offer a variety of facilities to support provider visits, including:

- The main hall
- Classrooms and meeting rooms
- AV equipment and IT access

These can be arranged in advance by contacting the Careers Leader.

Prospectuses and literature can also be left at the **Careers Resource Centre**, managed by the school librarian, which is accessible to pupils during break and lunch times.

9. Complaints

Any complaints related to provider access can be raised through the school's **Complaints Policy**, available on our website, or through **The Careers & Enterprise Company**.

10. Approval and Review

This policy is reviewed **annually** by the Careers Leader, the Senior Leadership Team, and the Governing Body.