

The Meadows Academy: Provider access policy

Introduction

This policy statement sets out the school's arrangements for managing the access of education and training providers to pupils for the purpose of providing information about approved technical education qualifications and apprenticeships, in line with statutory guidance.

The Meadows Academy is committed to ensuring that all pupils receive **independent, impartial and high-quality careers guidance**, which enables them to make informed choices about their future pathways. This is underpinned by our school vision of **Belonging, Becoming, Beyond**, and our commitment to preparing pupils for successful transitions into further education, employment and adulthood.

Pupil entitlement

All pupils in Years 7–11 are entitled to:

- Access a broad and balanced careers programme that provides information on the full range of education and training options at each transition point, including academic, vocational and technical pathways
- Learn from a range of local and national providers, including further education colleges, training providers and employers, through encounters such as assemblies, group discussions, workshops and taster events
- Receive clear, accessible information on apprenticeships and technical routes, alongside academic options
- Be supported to understand and navigate application processes for post-16 destinations
- Experience opportunities that are appropriately adapted to meet their SEMH needs, ensuring meaningful engagement and participation

Management of provider access requests - Procedure

A provider wishing to request access should contact Denise Cullen, associate vice principal or Amie Hart, careers leader.

Telephone: 01388 811178

Email: themeadows@horizonstrust.org.uk

Requests should include the proposed format, intended year group and learning outcomes.

Opportunities for access

The school offers a range of planned opportunities for providers to engage with pupils throughout the academic year. These include:

- Careers and transition events
- College and training provider visits
- Employer encounters
- Small group and targeted sessions designed to meet individual SEMH needs

In line with statutory expectations, the school ensures that multiple encounters with providers take place during secondary education. Providers may be invited to contribute to existing provision or propose additional activities where these add value to pupils' learning and progression.

Premises and Facilities

The school will:

- Provide suitable spaces for provider-led sessions
- Offer access to ICT facilities where appropriate
- Ensure appropriate staff support is in place, recognising that many pupils require additional structure, relationship-building and emotional support when engaging with unfamiliar adults
- Work collaboratively with providers to co-produce risk assessments, ensuring activities are safe, accessible and inclusive

Providers are also welcomed to attend Parents' Evenings and transition events, where appropriate, to engage with pupils and families as part of a wider careers offer.

Safeguarding

All provider visits must align with the school's safeguarding policies and procedures. Visitors may be supervised at all times, and all activities will be planned with pupil safety and wellbeing as a priority.

Monitoring and Review

This policy is monitored and reviewed annually by senior leaders to ensure compliance with statutory guidance and to evaluate its impact on pupils' career readiness and progression outcomes.