

Saint Aidan's Church of England Secondary School: Provider Access Policy

Introduction

This policy statement sets out the school's arrangements for managing the access of providers to the school for the purpose 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.

Pupil entitlement

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. For pupils of compulsory school age these encounters are mandatory and there will be a minimum of two encounters for pupils during the 'first key phase' (year 8 to 9) and two encounters for pupils during the 'second key phase' (year 10 to 11). For pupils in the 'third key phase' (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. These provider encounters will be scheduled during the main school hours and the provider will be given a reasonable amount of time to, as a minimum:
- share information about both the provider and the approved technical education qualification and apprenticeships that the provider offers
- explain what career routes those options could lead to
- provide insights into what it might be like to learn or train with that provider (including the opportunity to meet staff and pupils from the provider)
- answer questions from pupils.

Meaningful provider encounters

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. Meaningful online engagement is also an option, and we are open to providers that are able to provide live online engagement with our pupils.

Previous providers:

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

- Blackpool Sixth Form College
- Blackpool and Fylde College
- Training 2000
- Myerscough
- University College of Football and Business
- Lancaster University
- University of Central Lancashire

Destinations of our pupils:

Destinations of our pupils (September 2025):

Last year our 165 Year 11 pupils moved to range of providers in the local area after school:

Other training	2
Apprenticeship with Employer	6
Blackpool and the Fylde College	37
Blackpool Sixth Form College	90
Other Sixth form College	10
Other further education college	6
Myerscough College	10
Not Decided	2
Armed forces	2

Management of provider access requests:

Procedure A - provider wishing to request access should contact Antony Lord, Deputy Head and Careers Strategic Lead Anthony-Lord@st-aidans.lancs.sch.uk or Emma Jessop, Careers Operational Lead staffemj@st-aidans.lancs.sch.uk

Opportunities for access: The school offers the six provider encounters required by law (marked in bold text) and a number of additional events, integrated into the school careers programme. We will offer providers an opportunity to come into school to speak to pupils or their parents or carers. Please speak to our Careers Leader to identify the most suitable opportunity for you.

	Autumn	Spring	Summer
Year 7/8	Church visit – roles of the clergy	Dragon's Den activity- market research, design, advertising. Careers lessons	Blackpool sixth form – Btechs and T levels Local employer assembly talks.
Year 9	Health awareness event – Fire brigade, NHS employers Careers fair	Training 2000 – apprenticeships Blackpool Sixth Form	No encounters – legislation requires all encounters to take place by 28th February.
Year 10	Employability day – mock interviews and employers delivering interview technique sessions. Blackpool Sixth – Alevels, B-techs. Blackpool Fylde T-levels Careers fair	Meeting with careers advisor.	Visiting colleges and providers – taster sessions from a choice of Myerscough Blackpool Sixth Blackpool and Fylde Nautical College
Year 11	Meeting with career advisor. Post 16 applications Ask apprenticeships assembly Local employers – Women in STEM (Victrex) Assembly and class workshops delivered by: Blackpool Sixth, Blackpool and Fylde College, Rossall, Myerscough Careers fair	Post 16 interviews Humanutopia – Year 11 The Final Push – Employability skills	No encounters – legislation requires encounters to take place by 28 February if in year 11 Confirmation of post-16 education and training destinations for all pupils