

Provider Access Policy Statement

(To include The Department of Education, July 2021: “Baker Clause” and the Provider Access Legislation, January 2023)

Ownership: Arthur Mellows Village College / Four Cs Academy Trust

Date updated: September 2024

Rationale

High quality careers education and guidance in school or college 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 and post-18 including wider technical education options such as T-Levels and Higher Technical Qualifications.

Commitment

Arthur Mellows Village College 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 College 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 College 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 College 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).
- To help students acquire and recognise transferrable skills which allow students to be effective in a variety of situation in adult and working life.

Student Entitlement

In accordance with the updated Provider Access Legislation which came into force from January 2023, students are provided with at least six encounters with organisations offering technical education qualifications or apprenticeships:

- Two encounters for pupils during the 'first key phase' (year 8 or 9) that are mandatory for all pupils to attend.
- Two encounters for pupils during the 'second key phase' (year 10 or 11) that are mandatory for all pupils to attend.
- Two encounters for pupils during the 'third key phase' (year 12 or 13) that are mandatory for the school to put on but optional for pupils to attend.

All students in years 7-13 are entitled:

- To find out about technical education qualifications and apprenticeship 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, collapsed days, group discussions and taster events.
- To understand how to make applications for the full range of academic and technical courses.

The school will deliver during assemblies, collapsed days, in addition to providers attending careers events with the College.

Links with other policies

It supports and is underpinned by key school policies including those for Careers, Child Protection, Equality and Diversity, and SEND. Please refer to the 'Policies' section of the College website, via the following link [Arthur Mellows Village College - Policies](#).

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 College and Trust is committed to encouraging all students to make decisions about their future based on impartial information.

Provider Access Requests Procedure

A provider wishing to request access, should be directed to Sam Clarke, Careers Leader. Sam Clarke may be contacted by telephone or email, office@arthurmellows.org, Tel 01733 252235.

These are the minimum content requirement for the provider led session:

- Information about the provider and the approved technical education qualifications or apprenticeships that the provider offers.
- Information about the careers to which those technical education qualifications or apprenticeships might lead.
- A description of what learning or training with the provider is like.

- Responses to questions from the pupils about the provider or approved technical education qualifications and apprenticeships.
- Sessions must be provided during the school day and can be delivered face to face where possible but a blended, virtual session would be acceptable as long as a Q&A live session for students is included.
- AMVC consider that a minimum of at least a 30-minute session or above is required from a provider to provide a 'meaningful' encounter for our students.

Opportunities for access

The College can offer providers opportunities to attend during school assemblies, timetabled Life Skills lessons, collapsed days and careers events that the College is arranging. This is integral to the College's careers programme and is reviewed annually by the Careers Lead.

Students may also travel to visit another provider as part of the trip to be organised in partnership with the College.

Grounds for granting requests for access

The following minimum criteria must be met:

- Adequate room(s) and equipment are available, based on existing timetable.
- Staff are available to attend, taking account of participant numbers and teaching timetables and to ensure DBS regulations are met.
- Students are available to attend, depending on the dates requested and curriculum considerations.
- Providers are impartial, unbiased and provide high quality content, meeting equal opportunity requirements.
- Providers are GDPR compliant.
- Providers adhere to the schools Safeguarding policy which outlines the school's procedure for checking the identity and suitability of visitors, which can be found on our school website (see [Arthur Mellows Village College - Policies](#)).

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

The College 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 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 College will consider live online encounters with providers where requested, and these may be broadcast into classrooms or the College 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 coordinates all provider requests and is responsible to their senior management line manager.

Complaints procedure

Any complaints about this policy will be dealt with under the college's Complaints Policy (see [Arthur Mellows Village College - Policies](#))

Monitoring review and evaluation

This policy will be evaluated and updated annually at the end of the summer term by the Careers Team or sooner if a change occurs.