

Birchwood: 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.

The current calendar of employer experiences is as follows:

<u>Employer Experience</u>	<u>Date</u>
Department of Work and Pensions – One to One Interviews	27 th June 2022, 12 th and 13 th September 2022, 21 st February, 20 th March
Trip to Kent University	13 th June 2022
Talk from a University Student	6 th October 2022
Engineering Online Conference	3 rd November 2022
Talk from East Kent college	11 th November 2022
The Education People	16 th November 2022

National Library and Author workshop	10 th January 2023
Finance Workshops	24th January 2023
Nurse/Healthcare talk	9 th February 2023
Border Force	24th February 2023
Apprenticeship talk	23rd March 2023
British Science Museum	4 th May 2023

Destinations of our pupils

Last year our year 11 pupils moved to range of providers in the local area after school:
95% of pupils were confirmed to be in a positive destination.

Employment with training	0%
Employment no training	15%
Training/Apprenticeship	5%
Further Education – College	70%
Further Education – 6 th Form	5%
Unknown	5%

Management of provider access requests

Procedure

A provider wishing to request access should contact:

Jane Waters
Headteacher
office@birchwoodpru.kent.sch.uk or 0300 065 8450

Opportunities for access

We will offer providers an opportunity to come into school to speak to pupils or their parents or carers.

Birchwood offers a very flexible careers programme and will accommodate providers at any suitable opportunity.

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

Premises and facilities

The school will make the central area, classrooms or private meeting rooms available for discussions between the provider and pupils, as appropriate to the activity. The school will also make available AV and other specialist equipment to support provider presentations. This will all be discussed and agreed in advance of the visit with the Careers Leader or a member of their team.

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

Providers are welcome to leave a copy of their prospectus or other relevant course literature at the school, this will be displayed for pupils in the main communal area which is accessed for break/lunch times and assemblies.

Complaints:

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

Approval and review

Approved January 2023 by Chair of the Management Committee

Next review: January 2024