

St. Bernard's High School: Provider Access Policy Statement

Ownership: St Bernard's High School

Date updated: July 2025

Rationale

High quality career 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 helps 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

St. Bernard's High School 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. St. Bernard's High School 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 statutory duty, and not showing bias towards any route, be that academic or technical.

St. Bernard's endeavours to ensure that all students are aware of all routes to higher skills and can 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

St. Bernard's High School policy for Access to other education and training providers has the following aims:

- Meaningful online engagement is also an option, and we are open to providers that can provide live online engagement with our pupils. Providers are welcome to leave a copy of their prospectus or other relevant course literature. Pupils have access to a range of material in our dedicated Careers room and the library. Complaints: Any complaints with regard to provider access can be raised following the school complaints procedure or directly with The Careers & Enterprise Company.

Student Entitlement

St. Bernard's High School fully supports the statutory requirement for students to have direct access to other providers of further education training, technical training, and apprenticeships. The school will comply with the new legal requirement to put on at least six encounters in each 'key phase' (2 in Year 8 or 9; 2 in year 10 or 11 and 2 in Year 12 or 13) with providers of approved technical education qualifications or apprenticeships.

This will be done via encounters in assemblies, workshops, future pathways events, and through live and virtual events during National Apprenticeship Week and National Careers Week. In addition, providers may attend careers events at school, for example our Careers Fair and year-group focused Careers Carousels.

Development

This policy has been developed and is reviewed annually by the Careers Leader and Careers SLT Link based on current good practice guidelines by the Department of Education.

Links with other policies

It supports and is underpinned by key school policies including those for Careers, Child Protection, Equality and Diversity, and SEND.

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. St. Bernard's is committed to encouraging all students to make decisions about their future based on impartial information.

Requests for access

Requests for access should be directed to Liza Phillips Careers Leader. Liza Phillips may be contacted by telephone or email, lph@stbernards.southend.sch.uk, Tel 01702 343583.

Grounds for granting requests for access

Access will be given for providers to attend during school assemblies, timetabled Careers or Life lessons, and Careers or Raising Aspirations events that St. Bernard's is arranging.

Students may also travel to visit another provider as part of the trip to be organized in partnership with St. Bernard's.

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

St. Bernard's 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 Coordinator will organize this, working closely with the provider to ensure the facilities are appropriate for 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

St. Bernard's will consider live online encounters with providers where requested, and these may be broadcast into classrooms or the school 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/Coordinator coordinates all provider requests and is responsible to their senior management line manager.

Provider Access Opportunities

The school offers the six provider encounters required by law (marked in bold text) and several 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.

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

Liza Phillips will raise the complaint to Helen Barnes (Headteacher) of St. Bernard's High school.

Monitoring review and evaluation

The Policy is monitored and evaluated annually via the SLT.

Policy Reviewed: July 2025

Appendix

Providers who have been invited into St. Bernard's to date include:

- Ask Apprenticeships
- City University
- Department for Work and Pensions Support for Schools
- USP College
- Ravensbourne University
- South Essex College
- University of Cambridge
- University of Kent
- University of Essex

Post-16 Destinations of previous pupils from St. Bernard's include:

- Brampton Manor
- Belfairs Academy
- Harris Academy
- King John School
- Southend College
- South Essex College
- Shoeburyness High School
- SHSG
- SHSB
- St. Thomas Moore's
- USP Seevic
- WHSG
- WHSB

Post-18 Destinations of previous pupils from St. Bernard's include:

- Russell Group universities
- Other UK universities
- European Universities
- Degree Apprenticeships L6 and L4 Apprenticeships with companies including JP Morgan; Chalkwell Hall School; and Google.