

Abbey Park School: Provider Access Policy

Date updated: October 2023

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

Abbey Park School (APS) 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. APS 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.

APS ensures that all students are aware of all routes to higher skills and are able to access information on technical options and apprenticeships.

Aims

The APS 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).

Student Entitlement

APS 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 with providers of approved technical education qualifications or apprenticeships. This will be through presentations at the KS3 "Meet the Employee Event", the year 10 Careers Day and the year 11 Apprenticeships Information Morning.

Development

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This policy has been developed and is reviewed annually by the Careers Leader and Line Manager (John White and James Maddern) based on current good practice guidelines by the Department for Education and against the Gatsby Benchmarks.

Links with other policies

This policy 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. APS 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 John White, Careers Leader. John White may be contacted by email or telephone, whitej@abbeyparcschool.org.uk, Tel: 01793 705400 ext 1129.

Grounds for granting requests for access

Access will be given for providers to attend during school assemblies, timetabled Careers or PSHCE lessons, the "Meet the Employer" event in June for KS3 students, the "Careers Day" in April for Year 10 and the Apprenticeship Information Day in January for Year 11. Requests at other times will be considered and, where possible, facilitated.

Year 10 students are offered the opportunity to travel to TPAT Sixth Form, Cirencester College, New College Swindon North Star and New College Swindon Queens Drive for organised taster days organised by the providers through the school. APS will promote and share flyers for any provider who contacts John White with the relevant information about their open events.

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

APS 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

APS 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 coordinates all provider requests and is responsible to his/her senior management line manager.

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Complaints Procedure

Any complaints about this policy should be raised to Tracey Dyer, email: dyert@theparkacademiestrust.com

Tracey Dyer will raise the complaint to Benedick Ashmore-Short, CEO of the Park Academies Trust.

Monitoring review and evaluation

The Policy is monitored and evaluated annually via the Local Advisory Board.

Policy Coordinator: Tracey Dyer

Policy To Be Reviewed: October 2025

Appendix

Providers who have been invited into APS to date include:

Cirencester College

New College Swindon

Green Labyrinth

TPAT Sixth Form

GWA Sixth Form

Swindon UCT

Destinations of previous pupils from APS include:

Cirencester College

New College Swindon Queens Drive

New College Swindon North Star

Great Western Academy Sixth Form

The Park Academies Trust Sixth Form

Commonweal Sixth Form

Wiltshire College

Hartpury College

Farmors' Sixth Form

Wotton Bassett Academy Sixth Form