

Provider Access Policy Statement

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

Ownership: The Chester Catholic Academies Partnership

Date updated: March 2026

Next review: July 2027

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

The Catholic High School, Chester 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 school is fully aware of the responsibility to set students on the path that will secure the best outcome, enabling them to progress in education and work and give employers the highly skilled people they need. This means acting impartially, in line with the statutory duty, and not showing bias towards any route, whether academic or technical.

The school 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, in line with the Baker Clause and the Provider Access Legislation (January 2023).

This policy statement is published on the school website and is reviewed annually.

Aims

The aims of this policy are to:

- Develop the knowledge and awareness of all students of all career pathways available to them, including technical qualifications and apprenticeships
- Support young people to learn more about opportunities for education and training outside of school before making crucial choices about their future options
- Reduce drop out from courses and avoid the risk of students becoming NEET (not in education, employment or training)
- Ensure students have access to high-quality Labour Market Information (LMI) to support informed decision-making
- Link careers guidance and provider engagement directly to curriculum learning within PSHE & Careers and other subjects
- Provide work-related learning experiences, including virtual visits and placements, where available
- Offer personal guidance through one-to-one careers meetings to support individual progression

Student Entitlement

The Catholic High School, Chester 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 legal requirement to provide at least six meaningful encounters with providers of approved technical education qualifications or apprenticeships for all students in Years 8–13. These will include:

- Two encounters for students during Years 8–9
- Two encounters for students during Years 10–11
- Two encounters for students during Years 12–13

These encounters will take place through assemblies (including National Apprenticeship Week and National Careers Week), timetabled careers lessons, and careers or raising aspirations events.

All encounters will be meaningful, involving two-way interaction between students and providers, enabling students to ask questions and engage directly.

Students will also have access to Labour Market Information and links between provider engagement and curriculum learning to support informed choices. Where available, work-related experiences including placements or virtual visits will enhance understanding of career pathways.

One-to-one personal guidance will be provided by Mrs G Durcan-Smith (CLL: PSHE & Careers) or a qualified careers adviser to ensure each student receives tailored advice.

Development

This policy has been developed and is reviewed annually by Mrs G Durcan-Smith (CLL: PSHE & Careers) in collaboration with the SLT Link (Mr T Wilson), based on current good practice guidelines from the Department for Education and alignment with the Gatsby Benchmarks for careers guidance.

Links with Other Policies

This policy supports and is underpinned by key school policies including those for 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 further education and apprenticeships. The school is committed to encouraging all students to make decisions about their future based on impartial information.

Additional support will be provided where appropriate to ensure that students with SEND can fully access and benefit from provider encounters.

Requests for Access

Requests for access should be directed to Mrs G Durcan-Smith (CLL: PSHE & Careers).

Email: durcan-smithg@christofidelis.org.uk

Tel: 01244 952788

Grounds for Granting Requests for Access

Access will be given for providers to attend during school assemblies, timetabled careers lessons, and careers or raising aspirations events arranged by the school. Students may also travel to visit another provider as part of a trip or virtual experience.

Details of Premises or Facilities

The school will provide an appropriate room or assembly hall as required. All rooms are equipped with computers, projectors and screens. Computer rooms can also be arranged.

Mrs G Durcan-Smith (CLL: PSHE & Careers) will organise arrangements in collaboration with the provider to ensure suitability for the audience.

All providers will be required to adhere to the school's safeguarding and visitor protocols. Providers will be met and supervised by a member of the Careers Team.

Live / Virtual Encounters

The school will consider live online encounters with providers where appropriate. These may be broadcast into classrooms or the school assembly hall. Technology checks will be carried out in advance to ensure compatibility.

Parents and Carers

Parental involvement is encouraged, and parents and carers may be invited to attend events to meet providers.

Management

Mrs G Durcan-Smith (CLL: PSHE & Careers) coordinates all provider requests and is responsible to the SLT Link (Mr T Wilson). Strategic oversight is provided by the SLT Link.

Complaints Procedure

Any complaints about this policy should be raised to Mrs G Durcan-Smith (CLL: PSHE & Careers).

If required, the complaint will be escalated to Mrs C McKeagney, Headteacher.

Monitoring, Review and Evaluation

The policy is monitored and evaluated annually by the Leadership Team through the school's self-evaluation processes.

Impact is measured through student destinations, student voice, quality of provider engagement, and evidence of curriculum-linked careers activities.

Policy Coordination

Policy Coordinator: Mrs G Durcan-Smith (CLL: PSHE & Careers)

SLT Link: Mr T Wilson

Appendix

Providers who have been invited into the school include:

- Cheshire College South and West
- Coleg Cambria
- Reaseheath College
- Army Recruitment
- Royal Air Force Recruitment
- Royal Navy Recruitment
- TTE Technical (UK)
- AAK Apprenticeships
- University of Chester

Destinations of previous pupils:

Destination data is reviewed annually and includes progression to sixth form, further education colleges, apprenticeships, employment, and higher education.