Provider Access Policy Statement

2026/2027

Date of review: September 2026

SLT Lead: Julia Hyde

Introduction

Under Section 42B of the Education Act 1997, and as of January 2018, schools have a duty to provide students in year 8-13 with access to providers of post-14, post-16 and post-18 education and training. This policy statement sets out how we manage access requests from these providers.

Student Entitlement

Students are entitled to:

Find out about technical education qualifications and apprenticeship opportunities, as part of a careers programme which provides information on a full range of education and training options available to them at each transition point.

Hear from a range of local providers about the opportunities they offer, including technical education and apprenticeships – through Annual Reviews of Education and Care plans, assemblies, taster events, e.g. inhouse vocational workshops in hospitality and group discussions within lessons.

Understand how to make applications for a range of academic and technical courses appropriate to them and their SEND.

Commitment

Orion Academy 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 Orion Academy 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 highly skilled individuals. That means acting impartially, in line with the statutory duty, and not showing bias towards any route, be that academic or technical.

Orion Academy endeavors to ensure that all students are aware of all routes and are able to access information on technical options and apprenticeships

Orion Academy is committed to deliver 2 weeks' worth of suitable and meaningful work experience for every young person by the end of Key Stage 4, in line with the students SEND presentation and reasonable adjustment.

Aims

The Orion Academy 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

The Orion Academy fully supports the statutory requirement for students to have direct access to other providers of further education training, technical training and apprenticeships. The school complies with the requirement to ensure at least six encounters with providers of approved technical education qualifications or apprenticeships, where possible and appropriate. This will be done in assemblies in National Apprenticeship Week and National Careers Week, in addition to providers attending careers events as part of the SEND community.

Development

This policy has been developed and is reviewed annually by the Careers Leader and Executive Headteacher, and is based on current good practice guidelines from the DfE.

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 Orion Academy is committed to encouraging all students to make decisions about their future based on impartial information, whilst also considering what is relevant for pupils with SEND.

Opportunities for access

Where appropriate, we offer providers the opportunity to speak with students and/or their parents, usually during an Annual Review meeting or during assemblies. Providers are welcome to leave a copy of their prospectus and other relevant course literature in reception.

Providers are also invited into school to support with assemblies or class-based discussions about careers, future educational placements, apprenticeships, etc. The Careers Lead 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 the careers leader who will facilitate.

Guidelines for granting and refusing access

Orion Academy will grant access requests that meet the following criteria:

- The provider has detailed and secure knowledge of the nature of the SEND of the SEND of The Orion Academy students
- The provider can offer appropriate pathways for the students, on both an academic and pastoral level.

Orion Academy will refuse any access requests that:

- The academy believes it is not in the best interests of the students.
- Does not meet the educational requirements of the students e.g. the provider offers unrealistic academic qualifications, e.g. A Levels.

Premises and facilities

Once the provider has been approved, the Academy will work with them to identify the best method for providing access to the students. The academy will make the hall, classrooms or meeting rooms available for discussions between the provider and students, as appropriate to the activity. This will all be discussed and agreed in advance of the visit with the Careers Leader or member of the Senior Leadership Team.

A provider wishing to request access should contact: Julia Hyde, Careers Leader, on 01865 771703 or emailing office@orionacademy.co.uk

Safeguarding

The Orion Academy's Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy outlines the academy's approach for welcoming providers into school to speak with the students.

The following information supports this policy

- Safeguarding and Child Protection
- Equality and Diversity
- SEND
- CEIAG statement and information

Monitoring review and evaluation

The Policy is monitored and evaluated bi-annually or in the event of significant change

Links

Careers guidance and access for education and training providers (DfE – June 2026)

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/careers-guidance-provision-for-young-people-in-schools/careers-guidance-and-access-for-education-and-training-providers


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