Provider Access Policy Statement

The Prescot School

Approved by:	Mrs Claire Haigh
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Contents

1. Aims 2
2. Statutory requirements 2
3. The Six Provider Encounters 2
4. Meaningful Encounters 3
5. Student entitlement 3
6. Management of provider access requests 3
7. Granting and refusing access 4
8. Safeguarding 4
9. Premises and facilities 4
10. Previous providers 4
11. Pupil destinations 4
12. Complaints ..... ……..5
13. Links to other policies 5
14. Monitoring and review 5
15. Careers Programme Overview 5

1. Aims

This policy sets out the school's arrangements for managing access for education and training providers to speak to students about post-16 and post-18 pathways.

It aims to ensure that all pupils:

- Receive high-quality, impartial careers guidance
- Are informed about the full range of academic and technical pathways, including apprenticeships
- Have meaningful encounters with a range of education and training providers

This policy supports the school's commitment to delivering a **high-quality careers programme** in line with the **Gatsby Benchmarks**, particularly Benchmark 7: *Encounters with Further and Higher Education*.

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2. Statutory Requirements

This policy is based on the school's legal duty to provide opportunities for a range of education and training providers to access pupils in Years 8–13.

This is set out in:

- Section 42B of the Education Act 1997
- The Skills and Post-16 Education Act 2022
- DfE guidance: *Careers Guidance and Access for Education and Training Providers*

The school is committed to ensuring compliance with the requirement to provide **a minimum of six encounters** with approved technical education or training providers.

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3. The Six Provider Encounters

Pupils will receive:

First key phase (Years 8–9):

- Two encounters with providers
- All pupils must attend

Second key phase (Years 10–11):

- Two encounters with providers
- All pupils must attend

Third key phase (Years 12–13):

- Two encounters with providers
- Attendance is optional

Encounters:

- Take place during the standard school day
- Are of meaningful duration
- Provide opportunities for interaction and questions

Providers are expected to deliver:

- Information about their organisation and courses
- Clear progression pathways and career routes

- Insight into learning or training experiences
- Opportunities for pupil engagement and questioning

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4. Meaningful Encounters

A meaningful encounter is defined as:

- A structured session involving a group of pupils and a provider
- Opportunities for pupils to ask questions and engage directly
- Delivery that is impartial, informative, and relevant

These may include:

- Assemblies
- Workshops
- Career fairs and conventions
- Work experience preparation and follow-up
- Visits and virtual sessions

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5. Student Entitlement

All pupils in Years 8–13 are entitled to:

- Access impartial and up-to-date information about all pathways
- Learn about technical education qualifications and apprenticeships
- Engage with a wide range of local and national providers
- Receive support in making informed decisions at transition points

This entitlement is delivered through the school's **Careers Programme**, embedded within the PSHE curriculum and wider enrichment opportunities.

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6. Management of Provider Access Requests

Procedure

Providers wishing to request access should contact:

Careers Leader:
Mrs Claire Haigh
Email: chaigh@prescotschool.org.uk

Careers Coordinator:
Mrs Robinson
Email: jrobinson@prescotschool.org.uk
Telephone: 0151 4778680

The school offers a range of planned opportunities across the academic year, including:

- Careers Convention
- Learn for Life Days
- Modern Work Experience Opportunities
- Assemblies and PSHE sessions
- Mock Interviews

Providers are encouraged to align requests with these opportunities.

7. Granting and Refusing Access

Access will be granted where:

- The content is appropriate, impartial, and relevant
- It supports the careers programme and student needs
- It does not duplicate existing provision

The school reserves the right to refuse access where:

- Requests do not meet the needs of pupils
- There are safeguarding or quality concerns
- Scheduling constraints prevent delivery

8. Safeguarding

The school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children.

All providers must:

- Comply with the school's safeguarding and child protection policies
- Adhere to **Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE)**
- Report to reception and follow visitor procedures
- Be appropriately supervised at all times

No provider will be left unsupervised with pupils.

9. Premises and Facilities

The school will provide:

- Suitable teaching spaces (classrooms, halls, atrium)
- AV equipment where required
- Support from staff where appropriate

Providers may also leave prospectuses and materials in the school's Careers Hub for student access.

10. Previous Providers

The school works with a wide range of providers, including:

- Further education colleges
- Apprenticeship and training organisations
- Universities
- Employers and industry representatives

This ensures pupils receive exposure to **diverse and realistic career pathways**.

11. Pupil Destinations

The school monitors pupil destinations to ensure progression into:

- Further education
- Apprenticeships

- Employment with training

Destination data is used to:

- Inform careers provision
- Identify gaps
- Improve outcomes for all learners

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12. Complaints

Any concerns regarding provider access should be raised in line with the school's **current Complaints Policy**, available on the school website.

Providers may also contact:

- The Careers & Enterprise Company
  Email: provideraccess@careersandenterprise.co.uk

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13. Links to Other Policies

This policy should be read alongside:

- Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy
- Equality and Diversity Policy

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14. Monitoring and Review

This policy is:

- Reviewed annually by the Careers Leader
- Approved by the governing body

The effectiveness of this policy is monitored through:

- Student feedback
- Provider feedback
- Careers programme evaluation
- Destination data

15. Careers Programme Overview

At The Prescot School, we deliver a **structured, progressive careers programme** that equips all pupils with the knowledge, skills and experiences needed to make informed decisions about their future.

Our careers provision is fully aligned to the **Gatsby Benchmarks of Good Career Guidance** and is embedded within the curriculum, particularly through **PSHE**, as well as through enrichment opportunities and employer engagement.

Our Intent

We aim to ensure all students:

- Understand the full range of **education, training and employment pathways**
- Develop essential **employability skills** (communication, resilience, teamwork)
- Are prepared for **successful transitions** at key stages

- Have meaningful encounters with **employers and providers**
- Are inspired to raise aspirations and challenge stereotypes

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Implementation

Our careers programme is delivered through:

1. Curriculum Integration

- Careers education is embedded within our **Personal Development** programme.
- Links to subject areas highlight **real-world applications and career pathways**
- Labour Market Information (LMI) is used to inform understanding of opportunities

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2. Careers Education by Key Stage

Key Stage 3 (Years 7–9):

- Introduction to careers and employability skills
- Awareness of different sectors and pathways
- Early encounters with employers and providers (MWEX)
- Options guidance in Year 9

Key Stage 4 (Years 10–11):

- Work experience preparation and placement
- Post-16 pathways (A Levels, college, apprenticeships)
- Careers interviews and guidance
- Employer encounters and application support

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3. Employer & Provider Encounters

Students take part in a wide range of experiences, including:

- Careers Convention (large-scale employer event)
- Employer assemblies and workshops
- College and training provider sessions
- Workplace visits and work experience
- National events (e.g. International Women's Day focus on careers)

These ensure compliance with the **provider access legislation** and Gatsby Benchmark 7.

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4. Personal Guidance

- All students have access to **independent careers advice**
- One-to-one guidance at key decision points
- Targeted support for vulnerable or disadvantaged pupils

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5. Work Experience

- All students benefit from a range of structured **work-related learning experiences** throughout their time at school, not limited to a single placement.

- Preparation and reflection are built into the curriculum
- Develops real-world skills and employer understanding

Impact

We measure the effectiveness of our careers programme through:

- Student voice and feedback
- Employer and provider feedback
- Destination data (Post-16 and Post-18)
- Gatsby Benchmark tracking

This ensures continuous improvement and high-quality provision for all learners.