St George Catholic College

Provider Access Policy

ACCESS TO A FULL RANGE OF LEARNING PROVIDERS: Sixth Forms and Further Education Colleges, Apprenticeship & Training Providers, University Technical Colleges and Studio Schools

Approved by	FGB
Policy owner / SLT Lead	Assistant Headteacher and Careers Lead - Mr James Preston
Provider access contact	Mrs Roxanne Wharton, Careers Adviser
Academic year	2026-2027
Next review due by	September 2027

1. Introduction

1.1 This policy statement sets out Saint George Catholic College's arrangements for managing the access of education and training providers to students to inform them about approved technical education qualifications and apprenticeships. This is written in accordance with the statutory requirements under Section 42B of the Education Act 1997 and the Department for Education's statutory guidance, Careers guidance and access for education and training providers.

1.2 The purpose of this policy is to ensure that all students in Years 8-11 are provided with opportunities to learn about technical education, apprenticeships and T Level routes as part of their broader career development programme.

1.3 National provider access legislation requires schools educating pupils in Years 8-13 to put on at least six provider encounters across those year groups. Saint George Catholic College is an 11-16 school; therefore, the four mandatory encounters that fall within Years 8-11 apply to our students. The two post-16 encounters in Years 12-13 are not applicable to the College.

2. Student Entitlement

2.1 All students in Years 8 to 11 at Saint George Catholic College are entitled to:

a) Learn about technical education and apprenticeship opportunities through various means, including careers fairs, assemblies, employer visits and personal guidance sessions.

b) Hear from a range of local providers about the opportunities available for academic, technical and vocational pathways, including technical qualifications, T Levels and apprenticeships.

c) Access careers advice and guidance that reflects a range of learning and employment pathways to make informed decisions about their future.

d) Receive impartial information about the full range of education and training options available to them, without bias towards any particular route or institution.

e) Have meaningful opportunities to ask providers questions about their courses, training, entry requirements, progression routes and what learning or training with the provider is like.

3. Management of Provider Access Requests

a) Procedure

Education and training providers who wish to request access to Saint George Catholic College should contact:

Roxanne Wharton (Careers Adviser)
Email: rwharton@stgcc.co.uk
Tel: 02380 670181

b) Granting or refusing access

Requests will be considered in relation to the needs of students, the statutory provider access requirements, the balance and range of providers already included in the careers programme, the timing of curriculum and examination commitments, safeguarding requirements and the availability of suitable premises and staff.

Access may be refused where a request cannot reasonably be accommodated, is not appropriate for the age or needs of the students, substantially duplicates existing provision without adding value, conflicts with safeguarding or operational requirements, or would prevent the College from maintaining a balanced and impartial careers programme. Where practicable, the College will discuss an alternative date, year group or format with the provider.

4. Opportunities for Access

4.1 A number of events are integrated into the College's careers education programme, offering providers the opportunity to speak with students about vocational qualifications, apprenticeships and other technical routes. These events may include:

a) Key Stage 3 (Year 7) - Internal careers activities, full access to our online careers platform (Morrisby), celebration of National Careers Week, PSHE sessions and external speakers covering careers and technical pathways.

b) Key Stage 3 (Years 8 and 9) - Careers enrichment days hosted by our external provider EBP, full access to Morrisby, external employer visits and events, PSHE, celebration of National Careers Week, sessions relating to careers and technical pathways, local collaboration with universities, and employer- and provider-led presentations.

c) Key Stage 4 (Year 10) - Careers fairs, individual guidance sessions, employer and provider visits and workshops, apprenticeship and college information sessions, celebration of National Careers Week, two-week work experience, enrichment days, full access to Morrisby, PSHE sessions relating to careers and technical pathways, and college open days/taster opportunities.

d) Key Stage 4 (Year 11) - One-to-one careers guidance, assemblies delivered by a wide range of colleges and providers discussing academic, technical and vocational qualifications, careers information events, employer and provider visits, celebration of National Careers Week, full access to Morrisby, PSHE sessions relating to careers and technical pathways, college open days, and access to up-to-date labour market information and resources.

4.2 The specific schedule of careers events will be published on the College website annually through the Careers Programme and Calendar.

5. Statutory Provider Encounters

5.1 In addition to the wider programme above, the College will ensure that the statutory provider encounters applicable to an 11-16 school are delivered. Within each key phase, the two encounters must be with two different providers. Each encounter will take place for a reasonable period during the standard school day and will be mandatory for all pupils in the relevant cohort.

Key phase	Required encounters	Permitted timing	Attendance
First key phase	2 encounters with 2 different providers	Any time in Year 8, or from 1 September to 28 February in Year 9	Mandatory for all pupils
Second key phase	2 encounters with 2 different providers	Any time in Year 10, or from 1 September to 28 February in Year 11	Mandatory for all pupils

5.2 The College's annual Careers Programme and Calendar will identify the planned provider encounters and other provider activities for the academic year. Additional provider encounters may be offered beyond the statutory minimum.

6. Requirements of a Meaningful Provider Encounter

6.1 The College will work with providers to ensure that each statutory encounter gives students the opportunity to hear directly about:

a) the provider and the education or training it offers;

b) the approved technical education qualifications and/or apprenticeships offered by the provider;

c) the careers to which those technical education qualifications or apprenticeships might lead;

d) what learning or training with the provider is like; and

e) how students can find out more, including relevant application or progression information.

6.2 Providers must also give students an opportunity to ask questions. Encounters will be planned so that they are appropriate to the age and needs of the cohort, including students with SEND.

7. Premises and Facilities

7.1 Saint George Catholic College will make suitable spaces available to accommodate agreed provider visits, whether through assemblies, workshops, group sessions or one-to-one meetings. Audio-visual equipment and IT facilities will be made available subject to prior arrangement.

7.2 Providers are welcome to distribute appropriate promotional materials such as brochures and prospectuses to students. These can also be made available in the College's designated careers area.

7.3 Please send any promotional materials to:

The Careers Department
Saint George Catholic College
Leaside Way, Swaythling, Southampton SO16 3DQ

8. Safeguarding

8.1 All providers attending Saint George Catholic College must adhere to the College's safeguarding policies. External visitors must follow the necessary safeguarding and visitor procedures, including signing in at reception, wearing appropriate identification and complying with staff instructions.

8.2 A copy of the College's safeguarding policy is available on the College website or by request.

9. Review

9.1 This policy will be reviewed annually by the Careers Lead and agreed with the Governing Body to ensure it remains effective, up to date and aligned with statutory guidance and the College's careers programme. It will be updated sooner if statutory requirements, staffing or provision change.

9.2 Next review due: September 2027.

Reference: Department for Education, Careers guidance and access for education and training providers, updated 23 June 2026.