EAST SUSSEX SKILLS ACADEMY

Provider Access Policy

Introduction

This policy sets out the arrangements of East Sussex Skills Academy (ESSA) for managing access to students by education and training providers for the purpose of informing them about approved technical education qualifications, apprenticeships and other vocational and academic progression pathways. The policy outlines the procedures for ensuring that all students receive access to a broad range of education and training providers as part of a high-quality careers programme.

This policy complies with the school's statutory responsibilities under Section 42B of the Education Act 1997, the Skills and Post-16 Education Act 2022, and the Department for Education's Provider Access Legislation guidance.

East Sussex Skills Academy places careers education and preparation for adulthood at the heart of its curriculum. Through a structured programme of employer engagement, workplace experiences, careers education, progression planning and encounters with further education, higher education and training providers, students are supported to make informed decisions about their future education, training and employment pathways. This Provider Access Policy forms part of the academy's commitment to delivering high-quality careers guidance and ensuring compliance with all statutory requirements relating to provider access.

This policy should be read alongside the academy's Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance (CEIAG) Policy and Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy.

Student Entitlement

All students are entitled to:

- Learn about the full range of education and training opportunities available to them at each transition point.
- Receive impartial careers information and guidance that promotes the full range of pathways available.
- Hear from a range of education and training providers about the opportunities they offer.
- Access information about technical education qualifications, T Levels, apprenticeships, higher apprenticeships, vocational qualifications, supported internships and higher education routes.
- Understand the application processes, entry requirements and progression opportunities associated with different pathways.
- Participate in meaningful encounters with employers, education providers and training providers that support informed career decision-making.

The academy will ensure that students have opportunities to engage with providers through a planned careers programme that aligns with statutory careers guidance and the Gatsby Benchmarks for Good Career Guidance.

Management of Provider Access Requests

Providers wishing to request access to students should contact:

Aran Hawkins
Assistant Headteacher and Careers Leader
Email: aran.hawkins@eastsussexskills.lseat.org.uk
Telephone: 01424 614563

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Opportunities for Provider Access

East Sussex Skills Academy is committed to providing meaningful encounters with a broad range of education, training and employment providers. These opportunities are planned throughout the academic year and form part of the academy's wider Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance (CEIAG) programme.

Providers may be invited to engage with students through:

- Year group assemblies.
- Small group presentations and workshops.
- Careers education delivered through the PSHE curriculum.
- The annual **I Can Careers Event**, bringing together employers, colleges, universities, apprenticeship providers and training organisations.
- Technical education and apprenticeship awareness sessions.
- Employer engagement and workplace preparation activities.
- Mock interviews and employability workshops.
- Progression events focused on post-16 pathways.
- Curriculum-linked employer engagement opportunities.
- Careers-focused enrichment activities.
- Careers newsletters and communications to students, parents and carers.
- Distribution of prospectuses and promotional materials through careers information points and digital careers platforms.

The academy works collaboratively with:

- Further Education Colleges.
- Sixth Form Colleges and Sixth Form Providers.
- Independent Training Providers.
- Apprenticeship Providers.
- Universities and Higher Education Institutions.
- Local, regional and national employers.
- The East Sussex Careers Hub and associated enterprise partners.

These partnerships ensure that students receive impartial information regarding academic, vocational and technical pathways and are able to make informed decisions about their future education, training and employment.

The academy will provide opportunities that support achievement of the Gatsby Benchmarks and fulfil the requirements of the Provider Access Legislation. Students will receive multiple encounters with approved providers at key transition points throughout their education, ensuring they are fully informed about technical education qualifications and apprenticeship opportunities before making progression decisions.

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Requests for Access
All requests from providers will be considered on the basis of:

- The needs and interests of students.
- Alignment with the academy's careers programme.
- Availability of suitable facilities, staffing and timetabling.
- Safeguarding requirements.
- The need to provide balanced representation of all progression pathways.

The academy welcomes requests from approved education and training providers and will not unreasonably refuse access where the request supports students' career learning and progression.

Safeguarding
All visitors must comply with the academy's safeguarding and visitor procedures. Providers will be required to read and adhere to the Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy and all relevant visitor protocols prior to engagement with students.
No provider will be left unsupervised with students unless appropriate safeguarding arrangements have been agreed in advance and are consistent with academy procedures.

Facilities
The academy is able to provide a range of facilities for provider activities, subject to availability and prior agreement. These may include:

- Assembly spaces.
- Classrooms and teaching rooms.
- Meeting and conference facilities.
- Audio-visual equipment, including projectors and display screens.
- Internet access where appropriate.
- Support from academy staff in organising and facilitating events.

All arrangements will be discussed and agreed in advance with the Careers Leader. No reasonable request will be refused where it contributes positively to students' understanding of education, training, employment or apprenticeship opportunities.

Monitoring, Evaluation and Review
The Careers Leader, **Aran Hawkins**, is responsible for coordinating provider access arrangements, maintaining records of provider encounters and ensuring compliance with current Provider Access Legislation requirements.
The effectiveness of the academy's provider engagement programme will be monitored through:

- Student feedback.
- Provider feedback.
- Destination data.
- Gatsby Benchmark assessments.
- Compass+ evaluations, where utilised by the academy.
- Annual careers programme reviews.
- Internal quality assurance processes undertaken by the Senior Leadership Team.

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The careers programme and provider access arrangements will be reviewed annually to ensure continued compliance with statutory guidance, local labour market information and the evolving education, training and employment landscape.

Responsibilities
The Senior Leadership Team will monitor implementation of this policy and ensure it remains compliant with current legislation and statutory guidance. The Careers Leader will coordinate provider access activities, maintain relationships with providers and review the policy annually.

Related Policies
- Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance (CEIAG) Policy
- Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy
- Visitor Procedures
- Equality and Inclusion Policy

Review
This policy will be reviewed annually or sooner should there be changes to legislation, statutory guidance or the academy's careers provision.

Approved by: Matt Jacobs
Date: October 2026
Review Date: October 2027