

Wymondham College: Provider Access Policy Statement

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

Date updated: Spring 2023

Introduction

This policy statement sets out the school’s arrangements for managing the access of providers to the school for the purpose of giving them information about the provider’s education or training offer. This complies with the school’s legal obligations under Section 42B of the Education Act 1997.

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

Wymondham College 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. Our school 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 the highly skilled people they need. That means acting impartially, in line with the statutory duty, and not showing bias towards any route, be that academic or technical.

Wymondham College endeavours to ensure that all students are aware of all routes to higher skills and can access information on technical options and apprenticeships (The Department of Education, July 2021: “Baker Clause”: supporting students to understand the full range of education and training options, and the Provider Access Legislation, January 2023).

Aims

Wymondham College policy for Access to other education and training providers has the following aims:

- developing the knowledge and awareness of our students of all career pathways available to them, including technical qualifications and apprenticeships.
- supporting 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.
- reducing drop out from courses and avoid the risk of students becoming NEET (Young people not in education, employment or training).

Student Entitlement

All Wymondham College students in year 8-13 are entitled:

- To have access and to find out about technical education qualifications and apprenticeships opportunities, as part of a careers programme which provides information on the full range of education and training options available at each transition point.
- To hear from a range of local providers about the opportunities they offer, including technical education and apprenticeships – through options evenings, assemblies and group discussions and taster events.
- To understand how to make applications for the full range of academic and technical courses.
- To have direct access and to find out about other providers of further education training, technical training and apprenticeships

For pupils of compulsory school age these encounters are mandatory and there will be a minimum of two encounters for pupils during the ‘first key phase’ (Year 8 to 9) and two encounters for pupils during the ‘second key phase’ (Year 10 to 11). For pupils in the ‘third key phase’ (year 12 to 13), particularly those that have not yet decided on their next steps, there are two more provider encounters available during this period, which are optional for pupils to attend.

These provider encounters will be scheduled during the main school hours and the provider will be given a reasonable amount of time to, as a minimum:

- Share information about both the provider and the approved technical education qualification and apprenticeships that the provider offers
- Explain what career routes those options could lead to
- Provide insights into what it might be like to learn or train with that provider (including the opportunity to meet staff and pupils from the provider)
- Answer questions from pupils.

Safeguarding

All events have a member of staff in attendance whether face to face or online. Our safeguarding/child protection policy outlines the school’s procedure for checking the identity and suitability of visitors. Education and training providers will be expected to adhere to this policy.

Opportunities for access

The school offers the six provider encounters required by law (marked in bold text) and several additional events, integrated into the school careers programme. We will offer providers an opportunity to come into school to speak to pupils or their parents or carers.

The school will make the main halls in houses, the chapel, classrooms or private meeting rooms available for discussions between the provider and students, as appropriate to the activity. The school will also make available AV and other specialist equipment to support provider presentations. This will all be discussed and agreed in advance of the visit with Careers Leader or a member of the team.

Meaningful online engagement is also an option and we are open to providers that are able to provide live online engagement with our pupils.

Any provider that the school accommodates can leave marketing materials for students to read.

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Please speak to our Careers Leader to identify the most suitable opportunity for you.

Previous providers

In previous terms we have invited the following providers from the local area to speak to our pupils:

- The ASK (Apprenticeship Support and Knowledge) Programme (Apprenticeships/Traineeships/T-Levels), Attleborough Academy, Access Creative, City College Norwich, National Citizen Service, Norfolk Constabulary (Safer Schools), University of East Anglia, University of Cambridge, Paula Devaux, Nelson's Journey

Destinations of our pupils

Last year our year 11 pupils moved to range of providers in the local area after school:

- 45% of our year 11 students (21/22 cohort) continued to stay with Wymondham College
- 16% transitioned into 6th form/colleges outside of Norfolk
- 14% transitioned into City College Norwich
- 15 % transitioned into other local 6th form colleges/schools
- 4% transitioned into Easton College
- 2% transitioned into Norwich School
- 2% transitioned into Attleborough Academy
- 2% transitioned into local Apprenticeships

Last year our year 13 pupils moved to range of providers/apprenticeships in the local area after school:

- 1 Degree Apprenticeship with Lovewell Blake
- 1 Degree Apprenticeship with Larkin Gowen
- 1 Degree Apprenticeship with Howes Percival
- 2 Foundation courses with City College Norwich
- 6 students started their studies with University of East Anglia
- 1 student started studying at Norwich University of the Arts

Development

This policy has been developed and is reviewed annually by the Careers Leader and Line Manager (Careers Lead: Mrs Margarita Harris – Line Manager: Mrs Edmunds-Grezio) based on current good practice guidelines by the Department for Education.

Links with other policies

It supports and is underpinned by key school policies including those for Careers, 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 other providers of further education and apprenticeships. Wymondham College is committed to encouraging all students to make decisions about their future based on impartial information.

Requests for access

Requests for access should be directed to Mrs Margarita Harris, Careers Leader.

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Telephone: 01953 609000

Email: m.harris@wymcol.org

Parents and Carers

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

Monitoring review and evaluation

The Policy is monitored and evaluated annually via the Executive Leadership Team.

Complaints

Any complaints with regards to provider access can be raised following the school complaints procedure or Email principal@wymcol.org

Policy Reviewed: Spring 2023