

Provider access policy statement

Goldington Academy



Approved by: Francis Galbraith

Date: 25.06.26

Last reviewed on: July 2026

Next review due by: July 2027

Contents

1. Aims	2
2 Statutory requirements	2
3. Student entitlement.....	3
4. Management of provider access requests.....	3
5. Links to other policies	4
6. Monitoring arrangements	5

1. Aims

This policy statement sets out Goldington Academy's arrangements for managing the access of education and training providers to students for the purpose of informing them about approved technical education qualifications, apprenticeships and other education and training pathways.

The policy aims to ensure that all students receive impartial information about the full range of post-16 and post-18 progression opportunities available to them, enabling them to make informed decisions about their future education, training and careers.

It sets out:

- Procedures in relation to requests for access
- The grounds for granting and refusing requests for access
- Details of the premises and facilities available to providers
- The school's commitment to fulfilling its statutory responsibilities under the Provider Access Legislation (PAL)

2 Statutory requirements

2.1 General requirements

Goldington Academy is committed to ensuring that all students have access to high-quality, impartial information about the full range of education and training opportunities available to them.

In accordance with Section 42B of the Education Act 1997, the school will provide opportunities for a range of education and training providers to access students in Years 7 to 11 for the purpose of informing them about approved technical education qualifications and apprenticeships.

The school will publish this policy statement and review it annually to ensure continued compliance with statutory guidance and best practice in careers education.

2.2 Statutory - Provider Access Legislation (PAL)

All students in Years 7 to 11 at Goldington Academy are entitled to:

Two meaningful encounters with providers of approved technical education qualifications or apprenticeships during Key Stage 3 (Year 8 or 9).

Two further meaningful encounters during Key Stage 4 (Year 10 or 11).

These encounters are part of our planned careers programme and are designed to provide students with relevant information about technical and vocational options, in line with the Provider Access Legislation (January 2023).

2.3 Meaningful encounter

- Based on DfE guidance, a meaningful encounter is one where students:
- Learn about the provider and the qualifications or apprenticeships they offer.
- Understand potential career paths linked to those qualifications.
- Receive a clear description of what learning/training with that provider is like.
- Have the opportunity to ask questions.

3. Student entitlement

All students in years 7 to 11 at Goldington Academy are entitled to:

- Find out about technical education qualifications and apprenticeship opportunities, as part of our careers programme which provides information on the full range of education and training options available at each transition point
- Hear from a range of local providers about the opportunities they offer, including technical education and apprenticeships
- Understand how to make applications for the full range of academic and technical courses

4. Management of provider access requests

4.1 Procedure

A provider wishing to request access should contact Mr A Lucas, Careers Leader. Email: lucasa@goldington.beds.sch.uk

4.2 Provider opportunities

Goldington Academy provides a range of opportunities for education and training providers to engage with students throughout the academic year as part of the school's Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance (CEIAG) programme.

- Opportunities may include, but are not limited to:
- Careers and Post-16 events
- Assemblies and presentations
- Employer and provider encounters
- Careers fairs and networking events
- Curriculum-linked careers activities
- Workshops and employability sessions
- Apprenticeship and technical education events
- Workplace visits and experiences
- Small group or targeted guidance activities

The school will work with providers to identify the most appropriate opportunity for engagement, taking account of the needs of students, the careers programme and the school calendar.

Details of planned careers activities are published annually within the school's Careers Programme and may vary from year to year.

4.3 Granting and refusing access

Access to students will be refused under the following circumstances:

- On dates of national examinations
- During internal, formalised examinations
- If it is deemed that learning will be significantly impacted
- During staff training days and school holidays
- Over a weekend, unless an event is specifically arranged for this time period
- Where the proposed activity does not support the aims of the school's careers programme, cannot be accommodated within the school timetable, or raises safeguarding concerns

4.4 Safeguarding

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 and sign an agreement upon their initial visit to the premises.

DBS checks should be provided if available. All visitors must report to Reception upon arrival at the school site, bringing a photographic means of identification (e.g. passport, driving licence)

4.5 Premises and facilities

The school will make the main hall, 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 be discussed and agreed in advance of the visit with the Careers Leader or member of the Careers Team.

Providers are welcome to leave a copy of their prospectus or other relevant course literature at our Reception desk for the attention of the Careers Leader.

There will be a Resource Centre available to all students at lunch and break times in our school library.

5. Links to other policies

For further information on our policies, please visit the policy area of our website:

<https://www.goldington.beds.sch.uk/information/policies-procedures>

6. Monitoring arrangements

The school's arrangements for managing the access of education and training providers to students is monitored by Mike Birchall, School Business Manager.

This policy will be reviewed annually by Alex Lucas, Careers Leader.

At every review, the policy will be approved by Francis Galbraith, Principal.