

Park Vale Academy: Provider Access Policy Statement (11-16 Academy)



Statutory compliance under Section 42B of the Education Act 1997

Last Reviewed: 1st September 2026

Next Review: 1st September 2027

Introduction and Purpose

This policy statement sets out the academy's arrangements for managing the access of providers to pupils at 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, known as the Provider Access Legislation (PAL).

Park Vale Academy believes that high quality careers education and guidance is critical to young people's futures and social mobility. 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

Park Vale Academy 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. Park Vale Academy 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.

Park Vale Academy strives to ensure that all students are aware of all routes to higher skills and are able to 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

Park Vale Academy's policy for access to other education and training providers has the following aims:

- To develop the knowledge and awareness of our students of all career pathways available to them, including technical qualifications and apprenticeships.

- To support 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.
- To reduce drop out from courses and avoid the risk of students becoming NEET (Young people not in education, employment or training).

Student Entitlement

Park Vale Academy fully supports the statutory requirement for students to have direct access to other providers of further education training, technical training and apprenticeships. The school will comply with the new legal requirement to put on at least six encounters with providers of approved technical education qualifications or apprenticeships. This will be done in assemblies in National Apprenticeship Week and National Careers Week, in addition to providers attending careers events at school or at each Trust school.

All pupils in Years 8 to 11 at Park Vale Academy are entitled to:

Learn about technical pathways:

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.

Meet local providers:

Hear from a range of local providers about the opportunities they offer, including technical education and apprenticeships – through options events, assemblies, group discussions, mock interviews and taster events.

Understand application routes:

Understand how to make applications for the full range of academic and technical courses.

Understand and have access to LMI – Labour Market Information

Understanding LMI helps students make informed decisions about their future. It highlights where jobs are currently in demand across the country and what roles may need more workers in the future.

Development

This policy has been developed and is reviewed annually by the Governing Body and Assistant Headteacher, Mrs T Meeks [SLT link] 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, Safeguarding, 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. Park Vale Academy is committed to encouraging all students to make decisions about their future based on impartial information.

Management of Provider Access Requests

Requests for access should be directed to Miss Koppoe, Careers Advisor, who may be contacted by email: a.koppoe@parkvaleacademy.or.uk or tmeeks@parkvaleacademy.org.uk the SLT lead.

Access will be given for providers to attend during school assemblies, timetabled Careers or tutor lessons, and Careers or Raising Aspirations events that Park Vale Academy is arranging. Students may also travel to visit another provider as part of the trip to be organised in partnership with Park Vale Academy or The Redhill Trust.

Details of premises or facilities to be provided to a person who is given access

Park Vale Academy will provide an appropriate room or assembly hall to be agreed. All rooms have computers, projectors and screens provided. Computer rooms can also be arranged. The Careers

Leader or Careers Adviser will organise this, working closely with the provider to ensure the facilities are appropriate to the audience. Appropriate safeguarding checks will be carried out. Providers will be met and supervised by a member of the Careers Team who will facilitate.

Live/Virtual encounters

Park Vale Academy will consider live online encounters with providers where requested, and these may be broadcast into classrooms or the school assembly hall. Technology checks in advance will be required to ensure compatibility of systems.

Parents and Carers

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

Grounds for Refusing Access

The academy reserves the right to decline access requests if they clash with internal exams, pre-planned mock interviews, or core curriculum delivery. Access may also be refused if the provider does not meet our safeguarding criteria or if the request does not align with the updated Department for Education (DfE) statutory guidance.

One encounter is defined as one meeting/session between pupils and one provider. We are committed to providing meaningful encounters to all pupils using the [Making it meaningful checklist](#).

The school offers the four provider encounters required by law [in bold] and a number of additional events, integrated into the school careers programme. We will offer providers an opportunity to come into school to speak to students or their parents.

Year Group	Autumn Term	Spring Term	Summer Term
Year 7	Assemblies Tutorials	Parent Evenings Assemblies Tutorials	Assemblies Tutorials
Year 8	Assemblies Tutorials	Assemblies Tutorials	Parent Evenings Assemblies Tutorials

Year 9	Careers Fair- including apprenticeship providers ahead of GCSE options Assemblies Tutorials Option Talks	Parent Evenings Assemblies Tutorials Option Talks Option Taster Sessions Presentation from an apprenticeship provider ahead of GCSE options.	Assemblies Tutorials -legislation requires encounters to take place by 28 February if in yr. 9
Year 10	Careers Fair Assemblies Tutorials Career Talks Lunchtime Drop in sessions Taster Days	Assemblies Tutorials Career Talks Mock Interviews Lunchtime Drop in sessions Taster days	Parent Evenings Assemblies Tutorials Career Talks Life skills -Work Experience Lunchtime Drop in sessions Taster sessions
Year 11 -legislation requires encounters to take place by 28 February in yr. 11	Careers Fair Assemblies Tutorials Career Talks Lunchtime Drop in sessions Taster days	Parent Evenings Assemblies Tutorials Career Talks Lunchtime Drop in sessions Post 16 interviews Mock Results day	Assemblies Tutorials Lunchtime Drop in sessions Taster sessions legislation requires encounters to take place by 28 February if in yr. 11

Co-Curricular Offer

Park Vale Academy also encourages student participation in a wide range of co-curricular activities, some of which are aligned with the Gatsby Benchmarks. Examples include:

- Language Ambassadors
- Sports Ambassadors
- Debate Club
- STEM Club
- NHS Cadets

Please refer to our 'Curriculum Plus' booklet for more details.

Complaints Procedure

Any complaints about this policy should be raised to Mrs T Meeks, email:

tmeeks@parkvaleacademy.org.uk Mrs T Meeks will raise the complaint to Mr S Bowhay, Headteacher of Park Vale Academy. Or directly with The Careers & Enterprise Company via provideraccess@careersandenterprise.co.uk

Monitoring review and evaluation

Monitoring of the activities and the guidance taking place will include observations by SLT and feedback from students and those engaged in activities (e.g. parents, colleges, and employers). Outcomes will be reported to SLT and Governors on an annual basis via CEIAG evaluation / audit. **Impact will be measured by:**

1. Attainment and destination of students – closing the gap between young people from disadvantaged backgrounds and others

2. NEET figures
3. Questionnaires – trend analysis (e.g. Pathway options / parental engagement)
4. Student / staff evaluation forms

Providers who have been invited into Park Vale Academy to date include:

Armed Forces	G3A Football Academy
BAE	High Pavement College & 6 th Form
Bilborough 6 th Form & College	Inspire College
Bluecoat Trust	Microsoft
Brackenhurst College	Midlands Academy of Dance & Drama
The Carlton Academy 6 th form	Nottingham College
Central College	Nottingham Forest
Confetti College	Nottingham Police
De Montfort University	Nottingham Trent University
DHL Apprenticeships	Nottingham University
DWP	Vision West College
Gedling Borough Council	Redhill 6 th Form

Destinations of previous pupils at Park Vale Academy

First Destination Data for 2024 Year 11 leavers destination include:

Bilborough 6th Form & College
 Brackenhurst College
 Central College
 Confetti College
 High Pavement College
 Nottingham College
 Redhill 6th Form
 High Pavement

The academy tracks the destinations of all Year 11 leavers. Our latest validated destination data for 2024 leavers highlights that:

75% of students progressed to Further Education Colleges.

18.3% of students progressed to Sixth Form.

4% of students secured an Apprenticeship or technical training route.

First Destinations for 2024 Year 11 Leavers

Park Vale Academy

Destination	White		Black African		Black Caribbean		Black Other		Dual Heritage		Indian		Pakistani		Bangladeshi		Chinese		Other		No Ethnic Info		Male		Female		Unknown		Total	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%
Continued Education in School	3	3	3	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	10	4	16	19.05%	10	14.71%	4	33.33%	30	18.29%
College of Further Education	19	19	1	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	34	37	60	71.43%	56	82.35%	7	58.33%	123	75.0%
Training - Not Employed	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	5	5.95%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	5	3.05%
Employment with planned training	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%	1	1.47%	1	8.33%	2	1.22%
Employment without planned training	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1.19%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	0.61%
Not in Education, Employment or Training	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	2.38%	1	1.47%	0	0.0%	3	1.83%	
TOTAL	26	23	4	1	0	0	0	1	6	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	47	42	84		68		12		164	