

**Provider Access Statement 2022-23**

**Smithills School**

This policy statement sets out the school’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.

Statutory requirements

Schools are required to ensure that there is an opportunity for a range of education and training providers to access students in years 8 to 13 for the purposes of informing them about approved technical education, qualifications or apprenticeships.

Schools must also have a policy statement that outlines the circumstances in which education and training providers will be given access to these students.

This is outlined in section 42B of the Education Act 1997.

This policy shows how our school complies with these requirements.

**Pupil entitlement**

All pupils in years 7-13 are entitled:

• 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 events, assemblies and group discussions and taster events

• to understand how to make applications for the full range of academic, technical and Vocational courses.

**Management of provider access requests**

Smithills School uses the Gatsby Benchmarks as a guide to plan our CEIAG programme. As part of our commitment to informing our students of the full range of learning and training pathways on offer to them, we are happy to consider requests from training, apprenticeship and vocational education providers to speak to students.

Smithills School also proactively seeks to build relationships with these partners as we plan our CEIAG programme of activities throughout the school year to ensure that providers have multiple opportunities to speak to students and their parents across years 7- 13, to offer information on vocational, technical and apprenticeship qualifications and pathways. Smithills School ensures that staff involved in personal guidance and pastoral support are up to date on their knowledge of these post 16 and post 18 pathways. This is by hearing from providers themselves in assemblies, CEIAG conferences and events; via Teams meetings; the weekly careers bulletin; staff and form briefings and other CPD opportunities.

Opportunities for providers to speak with students may include school assemblies, employer and provider engagement events or opportunities to speak with students and parents on a one to-one basis supporting GCSE, post 16 or post 18 option choices. Smithills School’s CEIAG programme is monitored for quality and impact by our Senior Leadership and Governance Teams.

The school employs an independent, impartial careers advisor who works predominantly with all Year 10 and Year 11 students to ensure that they are able to make an informed choice about their next steps. All Year 11 students will be offered a 1:1 interview with the careers advisor, and where necessary repeat appointments ca be made. The advisor will inform students about the opportunities available to them that include a range of apprenticeships and vocational pathways in addition to more traditional routes. All out SEND students will be offered an interview and support via our Connexions Advisor. All EHCP students from Year 9 have a Connexions officer who will attend their reviews.

In the first instance, requests by providers should be sent to our Careers Lead with a minimum of 6 weeks’ lead time. All requests will be considered on the basis of staffing availability to support the activity, clashes with other planned activity, trips or visits to the school, interruption to preparation for examinations or rooming and space availability to host the activity.

For questions on this or Smithills School’s CEIAG programme , please contact our Careers Lead, Miss C Angus on **c.angus@smithillsschool.net**

**Opportunities for access**

Smithills School runs a series of events which offer providers an opportunity to come into school to speak to pupils and/or their parents/carers. The following outlines **some** of the examples of the opportunities provided:

* CEIAG Conferences ( Including employer engagement)
* Careers/ STEM events and activities
* Assemblies
* Parents evenings
* CEIAG Speed networking events
* Session Zero (Form Time) : Careers and Enterprise themes and activities

Please contact Smithills School Careers Office on **c.angus@smithillsschool.net** or call 01204 842382 and ask to speak to Miss Chloe Angus, Careers Lead.

**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 all be discussed and agreed in advance of the visit with the Careers Lead.

Providers are welcome to leave a copy of their prospectus or other relevant course literature in the Careers office, which is managed by the Careers Lead. This office is open to students, before school, at lunch, break times and after school.

**Approval and review**

Approved on 16/05/2023 by the Vice Principal

Next review: 23.11.23

Signed: Mr P Pavey