

## **Provider Access Policy Statement (PAL)**

**Ownership Ravens Wood School**

**Date Updated November 2025**

**Review Date November 2026**

### **Rationale**

High-quality careers education and guidance in school is critical to young people's futures. It helps prepare them for the workplace by providing a clear understanding of the world of work, including the routes to jobs and careers they might find engaging and rewarding. It supports students to acquire the self-development and career management skills they need to achieve positive employment destinations.

As the number of apprenticeships and technical qualifications rises, it becomes increasingly important that all young people have a full understanding of all post-16 and post-18 options, including wider technical education routes such as T-Levels and Higher Technical Qualifications.

Ravens Wood School is committed to ensuring a range of education and training providers have the opportunity to access students, to inform them about approved technical education qualifications and apprenticeships. The school acts impartially and does not show bias towards any route, whether academic or technical.

This aligns with:

- The Department of Education, July 2021: "Baker Clause"
- Provider Access Legislation, January 2023

The school ensures all students are aware of all routes to higher skills and can access information on technical options and apprenticeships.

### **Aims**

1. Develop students' knowledge and awareness of all career pathways, including technical qualifications and apprenticeships.
2. Support young people in learning about opportunities for education and training outside of school before making crucial choices about their future options.
3. Reduce dropout rates from courses and minimise the risk of students becoming NEET (Not in Education, Employment, or Training).

## **Student Entitlement**

In line with the Provider Access Legislation (January 2023), Ravens Wood School ensures that all students receive at least six encounters with approved providers of apprenticeships and technical education:

- Two in Years 8 or 9 (mandatory for all students)
- Two in Years 10 or 11 (mandatory for all students)
- Two in Years 12 or 13 (mandatory for the school to offer, optional for students to attend)

Students are entitled to direct access to providers of further education, technical training, and apprenticeships. These encounters occur through assemblies, careers events, trips, visits, and virtual sessions. Opportunities are advertised through school communications including Teams, tutor announcements, assemblies, and newsletters.

## **Approval and Review**

This policy is developed and reviewed annually by:

Careers Leader: Caroline Jackson-Searle

SLT Careers Lead and Director of Sixth Form: Nick McCartney

The Careers Leader coordinates all provider requests and is responsible to the SLT Lead.

Requests for Access

Requests for access should be directed to:

Caroline Jackson Searle – Careers Leader

Email: [cjs@rws.uk.com](mailto:cjs@rws.uk.com)

Tel: 01689 869930

## **Grounds for Granting Requests for Access**

Access is granted for providers to attend:

- School assemblies
- Timetabled Careers lessons
- Careers events
- Student trips to provider institutions
- Virtual talks
- Tutor time sessions
- Lunchtime sessions

### **Facilities Provided**

Ravens Wood School will provide appropriate rooms or assembly halls, access to computers and screens, staff supervision, and compliance with safeguarding protocols.

### **Virtual / Live Encounters**

- Virtual sessions are welcomed
- Technology checks will be conducted
- Safeguarding protocols will be followed

### **Parental Involvement**

Parents and carers are informed about provider access opportunities through newsletters, the school website, email and social media. Parents are invited to attend relevant careers events including apprenticeship and higher education sessions.

### **Alumni Engagement**

- Alumni are welcome to share experiences
- Opportunities for mentorship and Q&A sessions
- Alumni support career awareness and real-world insights

## **Equality & Diversity**

Access is available to all students. The school ensures inclusivity for students of all backgrounds, abilities and needs, including SEND.

## **Grounds for Refusing Access**

Access may be refused if:

- Safeguarding requirements cannot be met
- The session would disrupt teaching/learning
- Calendar capacity is full
- The session lacks suitability or relevance
- There are health and safety concerns

## **Complaints Procedure**

Complaints should be directed to:

Caroline Jackson Searle – Careers Leader

Email: [cjs@rws.uk.com](mailto:cjs@rws.uk.com)

Steps:

1. Initial review within 10 working days
2. Escalation to the Headteacher if unresolved
3. Final resolution within 20 working days

## **Monitoring, Review & Evaluation**

Annual evaluation includes:

- Number of provider encounters

- Student attendance
- Student feedback
- Apprenticeship and technical uptake

### **Links with Other Policies**

- Careers Education & Guidance
- Safeguarding
- Equality & Diversity
- SEND

### **Providers Accessed to Date**

- The British Army
- Bromley College
- Croydon College
- John Ruskin College
- Capel Manor College
- ELAM
- JLL
- AIM
- MET Police
- KPMG
- PWC
- EY
- NHS

**Approved by:**

Headteacher – Melanie Lester

Careers Leader – Caroline Jackson Searle

Date: November 2025

Next Review: November 2026