Statement on Provider Access

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Sacred Heart Catholic High School: Provider Access Statement

Introduction

Date updated: September 2026

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

Sacred Heart Catholic High School 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. Sacred Heart Catholic High 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.

Sacred Heart Catholic High School endeavours 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

The Sacred Heart Catholic High School 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

Sacred Heart Catholic High School 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 throughout the academic year, in addition to providers attending careers events at school.

Development

This policy has been developed and is reviewed annually by the Careers Leader, Michael Donnelly, and Line Manager 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. Sacred Heart Catholic High School 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:

Michael Donnelly
Director of Site and Personal Development
mdy@shhs.org.uk
0191 274 7373

Grounds for granting requests for access

Access will be given for providers to attend during school assemblies, timetabled Careers or Life lessons, and Careers or Raising Aspirations events that Sacred Heart Catholic High School is arranging. Students may also travel to visit another provider as part of the trip to be organised in partnership with Sacred Heart Catholic High School.

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

Sacred Heart Catholic High School 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 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

Sacred Heart Catholic High School 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.

Management

The Careers Leader coordinates all provider requests and is responsible to their senior management line manager.

Complaints Procedure

Any complaints about this policy should be raised to Michael Donnelly, Director of Site and Personal Development; mdy@shhs.org.uk, who will raise the complaint to the School's Headteacher.

Monitoring review and evaluation

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

Policy Coordinator: Michael Donnelly

Policy Reviewed: September 2026

CEIAG Event 2026-27

Year 12 and 13 follow a detailed Careers programme that covers opportunities for Apprenticeships, University, Employment, Further Education and Degree Apprenticeships

The school calendar varies from year to year so providers need to contact the member of staff named above to identify the most suitable opportunity.

The events are usually arranged well in advance so it is essential that providers contact us early in the academic year to be involved in our planning.

Access to students and/or parents will be granted on the understanding that information and guidance offered by providers is related to technical courses, training and apprenticeship opportunities only.

Providers will be expected to meet the school's safeguarding requirements which can be found in the Safeguarding Policy Statement accessible on the school website.

A number of events are integrated into the school careers programme which would potentially offer providers an opportunity to come into school to speak to students and/or their parents.

Please see the Careers Assembly Focus on the next page for details.

Premises and facilities

Access to appropriate rooms and facilities will be discussed and agreed in advance of the visit. Providers are welcome to provide relevant brochures and other printed material specifically related to technical courses and apprenticeships; these will be made available to students in Careers section of the school Library.

Careers Assembly Focus 2026-27

Year		Autumn	Spring	Summer	Additional Contacts
7	Who	NHS	Air Force	Amazon	NHS
	Theme	Careers in Nursing	Careers in the Airforce	Careers in Logistics	Careers in the NHS
8	Who	Gateshead Social Services	DWP	Imvelo Ltd	Esh Group
	Theme	Careers in Social Care	What are Apprenticeships?	Careers within the Environment	Careers in civil engineering and construction
9	Who	Deloitte	Equans	Durham University	Specsavers
	Theme	Apprenticeships in Finance and Business	Careers in Construction and Construction Management	What is University?	Apprenticeships/Careers in optometry
10	Who	Ernst Young	St James Place	Advanced Engineering	Northern Skills
	Theme	Degree Apprenticeships	Careers in Finance	Careers in Electronics & Manufacturing	Apprenticeship
11	Who	Gateshead College	Trinity Academy Solutions	Newcastle College	Gateshead College
	Theme	T levels	Post-16 Training Courses	Study at Newcastle College	Careers at Gateshead Sports Academy