Severndale Specialist Academy

Learning Community Trust

Provider Access Policy Statement Severndale Specialist Academy

To include The Department of Education, July 2021: "Baker Clause" and the Provider Access Legislation, January 2023

Approved by Lucy Lee	**May 2024**
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1. 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.

2. Aims

This policy statement aims to set out our Academy's arrangements for managing the access of education and training providers to students for the purpose of giving them information about their offer.

It sets out:

a. Procedures in relation to requests for access
b. The grounds for granting and refusing requests for access
c. Details of premises or facilities to be provided to a person who is given access

3. Statutory requirements

Severndale Specialist Academy 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).

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 Academy complies with these requirements.

4. Student entitlement

All students in years 8 to 13 at Severndale Specialist Academy are entitled to:

a. 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.

b. Hear from a range of local providers about the opportunities they offer, including technical education and apprenticeships.

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

In line with the Provider Access Policy update in January 2023 Severndale Specialist Academy must also provide at least six encounters with approved providers of apprenticeships and technical education for all of our students in years 8-13. This is broken down as follows:

- Two encounters for students during the 'first key phase' (year 8 or 9) that are mandatory for all students to attend.
- Two encounters for students during the 'second key phase' (year 10 or 11) that are mandatory for all students to attend
- Two encounters for students during the 'third key phase' (year 12 or 13) that are mandatory for the school to put on but optional for students to attend.

These provider encounters will be scheduled during the main school hours and the provider will be given a reasonable amount of time to, as a minimum:

- share information about both the provider and the approved technical education qualification and apprenticeships that the provider offers
- explain what career routes those options could lead to
- provide insights into what it might be like to learn or train with that provider (including the opportunity to meet staff and students from the provider)
- answer questions from students

One encounter is defined as one meeting/session between students and one provider. The Academy is committed to providing meaningful encounters to all students using the **Making it meaningful checklist.**

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

5. Management of provider access requests

Any provider wishing to request access should contact Liz Harrison, Careers Leader.

Telephone: 01743 563333

Email: liz.harrison@severndaleacademy.co.uk

6. Opportunities for access

Our provision includes various opportunities for students to access a range of events. These are integrated into Severndale Specialist Academy's careers programme and curriculum areas as well as hosting or attending one off events that provide such opportunities. The integrated events are usually delivered internally, with contribution from external providers where necessary. The one-off events, such as a college open day for preparation for adulthood events, are regularly advertised to our students and where appropriate we will arrange a visit, during the academy day, for a select

group of students to attend.

The academy employs an independent and impartial careers adviser from an outside agent, who works with students from Year 9 to Year 14 to ensure they are able to make an informed choice about their next steps. The adviser will see all of the students within these cohorts at least once each academic year, but where necessary repeat appointments can be made. We also work closely with the local authority and adult social care.

Local providers are invited to relevant events that are held at Severndale Specialist Academy. When holding parent events, we would, for example, invite specialist providers, colleges, or other relevant groups such as our local adult social care providers. We encourage other providers who are interested in coming into the academy to contact Liz Harrison to discuss suitable opportunities. Resources Providers are welcome to leave a copy of their prospectus or other relevant literature at reception for the attention of Liz Harrison. Severndale Specialist Academy will place the literature in a location that is available to be accessed by students and staff to provide them with information on the latest opportunities.

A number of events, integrated into our careers programme, will offer providers an opportunity to come into academy to speak to students and/or their parents/carers.

Parental Involvement

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

Safeguarding

Severndale Specialist Academy policy on safeguarding sets out the academy's approach to allowing providers into the academy as visitors to talk to our students. At all times we ensure that there are no issues of safeguarding and that our students are always completely safe whilst meeting or speaking to external providers.

Our safeguarding/child protection policy outlines the academy's procedure for checking the identity and suitability of visitors.

Education and training providers will be expected to adhere to this policy.

Premises and facilities

The academy will make the main hall, classrooms, specialist rooms or private meeting rooms available for discussions between the provider and students, as appropriate to the activity. The academy will also make available specialist equipment to support provider presentations. This will all be discussed and agreed in advance of the visit with the Careers Leader or a member of their team.

Links to other policies

Safeguarding/child protection policy

7. Monitoring arrangements

The academy's arrangements for managing the access of education and training providers to students is monitored by Liz Harrison.

This policy will be reviewed by Liz Harrison annually. At every review, the policy will be approved by the local governing body.