

Provider Access Policy

Policy statement

This policy statement sets out Dixons Croxteth Academy's arrangements for managing the access of providers to students at the Academy for the purpose of giving them information about the provider's education or training offer. This complies with the legal obligations under Section 42B of the Education Act 1997 (The Baker Clause).

Introduced as an amendment to the Technical and Further Education Act 2017, the Baker Clause states that schools must allow training providers and colleges access to all students in year 7 – 13 to discuss non-academic routes that are available to them. It is expected that by doing so this will help address the UK's productivity challenges and address skills shortages experienced across several sectors of the economy. This regulation has been enforced since January 2nd 2018.

The Department for Education's Statutory guidance for governing bodies, school leaders and school staff set out the expectations of schools which includes:

- Every school must ensure that there is an opportunity for a range of education and training providers to access all students in year 7 to year 13 for the purpose of informing them about approved technical education qualifications or apprenticeships.
- Every school must publish a policy statement setting out their arrangements for providers access and ensure that it is followed

Student entitlement

Students in Years 7 – 11 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.
- Hear from a range of local providers about the opportunities they offer, including technical education and apprenticeships through options evening's, assemblies and group discussions and taster events.
- Understand how to make applications for the full range of academic and technical courses.

For students of compulsory school age these encounters are mandatory and there will be a minimum of two encounters for students during the 'first key phase' (Year 7 to 9) and two encounters for students in the 'second key phase' (Year 10 to 11)

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.

Meaningful provider encounters

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

<https://resources.careersandenterprise.co.uk/resources/making-it-meaningful-benchmark-7>

Meaningful online engagement is also an option, and we are open to providers that are able to provide live online engagement with our students.

