Provider access policy statement

Churchdown School Academy
ACHIEVING SUCCESS FOR ALL

Date policy ratified:	4th November 2026
Date to be reviewed:	15th October 2027
Person responsible:	Mr S Hastings

Contents

1. Aims 2
2. Statutory requirements 2
3. Pupil entitlement 3
4. Management of provider access requests 4
5. Working with parents and carers 6
6. Previous providers 7
7. Pupil destinations 7
8. Complaints 7
9. Monitoring arrangements 8
10. Links with other policies 8

1. Aims

This policy statement aims to set out our school'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:

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

As a school we aim to:

- Develop knowledge and awareness among our pupils of all career pathways available to them, including technical qualifications and apprenticeships
- Support pupils in learning more about opportunities for education and training outside of school, before they make crucial choices about their future options
- Reduce drop-out from courses and avoid the risk of pupils becoming NEET (not in education, employment or training)

2. 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 provide a minimum of 6 encounters with technical education or training providers to all pupils in years 8 to 13 (see more detail in section 2.1 below).

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

This is outlined in:

- Section 42B of the Education Act 1997
- Education and Skills Act 2008
- The School Information (England) Regulations 2008

- The Skills and Post-16 Education Act 2022
- Guidance from the Department for Education (DfE) on careers guidance and access for education and training providers

This policy shows how our school complies with these requirements.

3. Pupil entitlement

All pupils in years 8 to 13 are entitled to:

- Find out about further education training, 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
- Hear from a range of local providers about the opportunities they offer, including technical education and apprenticeships, e.g. through activities and events such as options events, assemblies and taster events
- Understand how to make applications for the full range of academic and technical courses
- Have a minimum of 6 encounters with providers

These encounters must happen for a reasonable period of time during the standard school day.

As a school we can provide complementary experiences but encounters outside of school hours won't count towards these requirements.

Access to providers is available and promoted to allow all pupils to access information about other providers of further education and apprenticeships. We are committed to encouraging all pupils to make decisions about their future based on impartial information.

Pupils in year 8 and 9

All pupils in these year groups are offered:

- 2 encounters with education and training providers
    - All pupils must attend
    - Encounters can take place any time during year 8, and between 1 September and 28 February during year 9

Pupils in year 10 and 11

All pupils in these year groups are offered, as a minimum:

- 2 encounters with education and training providers
    - All pupils must attend
    - Encounters can take place any time during year 10, and between 1 September and 28 February during year 11

Pupils in year 12 and 13

All pupils in these year groups are offered, as a minimum:

- 2 encounters with education and training providers
    - Pupils can choose to attend
    - Encounters can take place any time during year 12, and between 1 September and 28 February during year 13

3.1 Meaningful encounters with providers

Our school is committed to providing meaning encounters for all pupils.

A meaningful encounter:

- Is where the pupil can explore what it is like to learn, develop and succeed in that environment
- Involves meeting both staff and learners/trainees
- Has a clear purpose
- Is underpinned by learning outcomes that are appropriate to the needs of the pupil
- Involves a 2-way interaction between the pupil and the provider
- Includes information about the provider, such as their recruitment and selection processes, the qualifications that provider offers and the careers these could lead to
- Describes what learning or training with the provider is like
- Is followed by opportunities for the pupil to reflect on the insights, knowledge or skills gained through the encounter

4. Management of provider access requests

4.1 Procedure

A provider wishing to request access should contact the Careers Coordinator, Ms S Dougherty in the first instance on:

Telephone: 01452 713340

Email: aspirations@churchdownschool.com

4.2 Information we ask from providers

As a school we ask each provider to provide the following information for our pupils:

- Information about your provision and the approved qualifications or apprenticeships you offer
- Information about what careers those qualifications and apprenticeships can lead to
- What learning or training with you is like
- Answers to any questions from pupils

4.3 Opportunities for access

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

	AUTUMN TERM	SPRING TERM	SUMMER TERM
YEAR 8	Assembly and tutor group opportunities to research career pathways and subject links	National Careers week National Apprenticeship week	
YEAR 9	Assembly and tutor group opportunities to research career pathways and subject links.	Careers Fair for students and parents with employers, Further and Higher Education represented. Key Stage 4 options event	Assembly and tutor group opportunities to research career pathways and subject links
YEAR 10	Business Breakfast networking event with providers and employers Life Skills – work experience preparation sessions Assembly and tutor group opportunities – employability skills	Business Breakfast networking event with providers and employers Careers Fair for students and parents with employers, Further and Higher Education representatives	Business Breakfast networking event with providers and employers
YEAR 11	Post-16 apprenticeship Assemblies Learning Effectively – preparation for work sessions Further Education led applications workshops Taster sessions at colleges	Post-16 interviews Apprenticeships – support with applications	One to one support for students still determining post 16 choices

	AUTUMN TERM	SPRING TERM	SUMMER TERM
YEAR 12	Visit to National Apprenticeship Show Access to information regarding Higher Education and Apprenticeships via Unifrog.	Oxford University visit Cardiff University visit Work Experience preparation.	Careers Advisor meeting opportunities. Higher Education Open day visits Work experience week
YEAR 13	Higher Education and Apprenticeship speakers during enrichment sessions	Meetings with careers adviser	One to one support for students still determining post 16 choices

Dates and further information about these events can be found on the school website or by contacting the Careers Coordinator at aspirations@churchdownschool.com

Information can be shared live or online through:

Assemblies
Form time Headstart sessions
Learning effectively and PSHE (Life Skills) sessions
Targeted small groups

4.4 Granting and refusing access

A provider wishing to request access should contact our Careers Coordinator at aspirations@churchdownschool.com stating who they are, their business/company interest and detail regarding the nature of their request. Requests will be considered by Careers Coordinator and approved by the Senior Leadership team. If unable to meet a specific request, the school will provide a reasoned explanation and seek to offer an alternative suggestion.

4.5 Safeguarding

Our **Child protection and safeguarding policy** outlines the school's procedure for checking the identity and suitability of visitors. All visitors are expected to adhere to this policy

4.6 Premises and facilities

The school will consider facilities most appropriate for use which will usually include the Main Hall, conference room, classrooms, sixth form student room and library. Individual discussions with students will be considered in spaces fit for purpose with regard to consent and safeguarding arrangements if considered appropriate and requested by students. AV and other specialist equipment will be made available to support presentations. Any facility requests will be discussed and agreed prior to the visit with the Careers coordinator. All providers are welcome to leave relevant careers and course literature which will be displayed in the library.

5. Working with parents and carers

We aim to involve parents and carers in our careers programme and welcome your attendance at encounters with providers in school. Parents/carers will receive information via parentmail, Satchel One and weekly bulletin.

If you would like to speak to the school about encounters with providers, please contact Mr Hastings.

We also welcome feedback from parents and carers to help improve our offer of encounters with providers.

6. Previous providers

In previous terms/years we have invited the following providers from the local area to speak to our pupils at a variety of events or visit. These included:

Arup	BAE Systems	Barnwood Construction	Cardiff University
Crowe UK LLP	EDF Energy	Equilaw	Gloucestershire Constabulary
Gloucestershire College	Gloucestershire Engineering Training	Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue	Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Trust
G-TEM	Hartpury University	Hazelwoods	Mercedes-Benz
MOOG	Pro Insurance	Renishaw	Safran
Tayntons Solicitors	The British Army	The Royal Airforce	The Royal Navy
Thomas Legal	Trelleborg	Unilever	University of Exeter
University of Gloucestershire	University of Plymouth	Will Bros	Woods Veterinary Practice

7. Pupil destinations

Last year, our year 11 pupils moved to a range of providers in the local area after school:

Activity Description	2024	2025
Apprenticeship	8.44	4.29
Employment with training (other)	0.42	1.17
Employment without training	-	1.17
ESFA funded work-based learning	1.27	1.17
Further education	45.15	46.70
Re-engagement provision	0.42	0.38
School sixth form	43.88	44.74
Seeking employment, education or training	0.42	0.38
Grand Total	**100.00%**	**100.00%**

Last year, our year 13 pupils moved to a range of providers in the local area after school:

Year 13 Destinations Statistics	HE	FE	Apprenticeships	Employment	Gap Year/Unknown	Total
2025	57	0	10	26	6	99
2024	62	7	8	18	19	109
2023	49	1	14	6	15	85
2022	63	1	13	14	3	95
2021	61	4	15	2	15	97

8. Complaints

Any complaints related to provider access can be raised following the school **Complaints procedure** which can be found on the school website.

9. Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed by Mr Hastings annually.

10. Links with other policies

This policy is linked to our:

- Careers guidance policy
- Complaints procedure
- Child protection and safeguarding policy
- This policy will be reviewed by Mr Stuart Hastings annually and approved by the governing board at every review.