

Open Academy

Provider Access

Statement

Policy Type:	Academy Policy
Approved By:	Local Governing Body
Date Approved by LGB:	March 2026
Review Date:	March 2027
Person Responsible:	Principal

Summary of Changes

The policy has been amended as follows.

Page Ref.	Section	Amendment	Date of Change

General Policy Roles and Accountabilities

The Diocese of Norwich Education and Academies Trust (DNEAT) is accountable for all policies across its Academies. All policies, whether relating to an individual Academy or the whole Trust, will be written and implemented in line with our ethos and values as articulated in our prospectus. We are committed to the provision of high-quality education in the context of the Christian values of service, thankfulness and humility where individuals are valued, aspirations are high, hope is nurtured, and talents released.

A Scheme of Delegation for each Academy sets out the responsibilities of the Local Governing Body and Principal. The Principal of each Academy is responsible for the implementation of all policies of the Academy Trust.

All employees of the Academy Trust are subject to the Trust's policies.

Contents

1. Rationale
2. Commitment
3. Aims
4. Student Entitlement
5. Development
6. Links with other policies
7. Equality and Diversity
8. Requests for Access
9. Granting requests for access
10. Details of premises or facilities to be provided
11. Live/Virtual encounters
12. Parents and carers
13. Management
14. Complaints procedure
15. Monitoring and evaluation

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 students in Years 8 to 13 and must 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](#)

[Education and Skills Act 2008](#)

[The Skills and Post 16 Education Act 2022](#)

Guidance from the Department of Education (DfE) on [careers guidance and access for education and training providers](#)

This policy shows how our Academy complies with these requirements.

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, Higher Technical Qualifications and V Levels.

2. Commitment

Open Academy 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. Open Academy 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.

Open 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).

3. Aims

Open Academy's 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).

4. Student Entitlement

Open Academy 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, careers fairs, small group sessions, and through engagement with the PHSE curriculum.

5. Development

This policy has been developed and is reviewed annually by the Careers Leader, Dr Caroline Davies and SLT Link Vice Principal Kate Wenlock based on current good practice guidelines by the Department for Education.

6. Links with other policies

It supports and is underpinned by key school policies including those for Careers, Safeguarding, Equality and Diversity, and SEND.

7. Equality and Diversity

Access to a variety of other providers is available and promoted to allow all students to access information about further education and apprenticeships. Open Academy is committed to encouraging all students to make decisions about their future based on impartial information.

8. Requests for access

Requests for access should be directed to **Dr Caroline Davies**, Careers Leader who may be contacted by telephone or email caroline.davies@open-academy.org.uk , **01603 481672**. Visitors should understand that we work on a termly basis and within the constraints of timetabled lessons and public examinations, so planning well ahead is recommended, particularly where Year 11 students are involved. Details of the careers provision for each year group is shown in the Careers Programme Roadmap on the Open Academy website.

9. Grounds for granting requests for access

Access will be given for providers to attend during school assemblies, timetabled Careers or PHSE lessons, and Careers or Raising Aspirations events that Open Academy is arranging. Students may also travel to visit another provider as part of a trip to be organised in partnership with Open Academy/DNEAT. Providers are expected to support the Core Values of the school – **Aspiration, Perseverance and Respect** through encouraging its students to achieve the highest grades possible.

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

Open Academy will provide an appropriate room or assembly hall to be agreed. This might be the Lecture Theatre, classrooms or meeting rooms. All rooms have computers, projectors and screens provided. Computer rooms can also be arranged. The Careers Leader or Careers Adviser 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.

11. Live/Virtual encounters

Open Academy 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.

12. Parents and Carers

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

13. Management

The Careers Leader coordinates all provider requests and is responsible to his/her senior management line manager Miss Kate Wenlock, Vice Principal.

14. Complaints Procedure

Any complaints about this policy should be raised to Dr Caroline Davies email: caroline.davies@open-academy.org.uk

Dr Davies will raise the complaint to Mr D Bagshaw, Principal of Open Academy.

15. Monitoring review and evaluation

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

Policy Coordinator: Dr Caroline Davies

Policy Reviewed: March 2026

Appendix

Providers who have been invited into Open Academy include:

- City College Norwich
- University of East Anglia
- Speakers for Schools
- Aviva
- Access Creative College
- KPMG
- Norfolk and Suffolk NHS Foundation Trust
- Howes Percival LLP
- Norwich University of the Arts
- University Technical College Norfolk
- Norwich Theatre Royal
- Pathways to Work Apprenticeships
- Marks and Spencer
- Royal Air Force

Destinations of previous students from Open Academy

- City College Norwich
- Easton College
- Access Creative College
- Thorpe St Andrew High School Sixth Form
- University Technical College Sixth Form
- Sir Isaac Newton/Jane Austen Sixth Form
- St Edmunds Society
- Notre Dame High School Sixth Form
- Sprowston Community Academy Sixth Form

Careers Lead – Caroline Davies

SLT Careers Link – Kate Wenlock

Enterprise Co-ordinator – Madeleine Matthews (CEC)

Enterprise Adviser – Gordon Simpson (Howes Percival)

Careers Adviser – Kelly Lee (Beacon East)