



Provider Access Policy

Date ratified: 8 June 2023

Date policy due to be reviewed: June 2025

Committee responsible for policy: Board of Directors

Geraldine Kelly – Chair of the Board of Governors

Review No.	Date	Summary of Changes	Reviewer
1			
2			
3			



Provider Access Policy

Introduction

This policy statement sets out the College's arrangements for managing the access of providers to learners at the College for the purpose of giving them information about their education or training offer. This complies with the College's legal obligations under Section 42B of the Education Act 1997.

Learner entitlement

All learners 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, training and employment options available at each transition point;
- to hear from a range of local providers about the opportunities they offer, including technical, education and apprenticeships – through options events, assemblies and group discussions and taster events;
- to understand how to make applications for the full range of academic and technical courses.

These provider encounters will be scheduled during the main college 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 learners from the provider)
- answer questions from all learners, including our most vulnerable and those with additional learning needs

The Ridge Employability College defines an encounter as at least 30 minutes, during the college day. The college days run from 9.00am until 3.00pm.

As part of our careers programme, we will consider requests from approved training, apprenticeship, technical and vocational education providers to speak to our learners. The Ridge Employability College will also approach these providers directly when planning and organising key career related events throughout the college year such as college assemblies, webinars within the curriculum, including live events, careers engagement events and parents/carers evenings/events.

The quality and impact of careers provision at The Ridge Employability College is monitored by our Senior Leadership Team and Lead for Careers.

The Ridge Employability College has a range of facilities available for providers to use in support of our careers programme. This includes the main teaching areas, meeting rooms and a number of remote sites.

Management of provider access requests

All requests made by providers should be emailed at least 6 weeks in advance of the expected date of the session.

In the first instance, requests by providers should be sent to: -

Name of Careers Lead: - Samantha Everatt

Careers Lead email address: - samantha@theridgecollege.co.uk

Tel No: - 01302 897445

Please complete this table and copy into email to Careers Lead

Name of provider requesting access & details of provision	
Contact Name at Provider and Contact Details	
Proposed date, time and length of session	
Number of staff who propose to visit	
Aims and objectives of session including year group	
Please demonstrate which Gatsby Benchmarks relate to the session and how <i>(link to information re Gatsby Benchmarks Good Career Guidance / Education / Gatsby)</i>	
Proposed format, timings and duration of session including facilities and equipment required	
Support required from The Ridge Employability College, including staffing	

Granting Requests and Refusal of Requests

Once your request has been submitted, the Careers Lead will respond to you within 10 working days. All requests will be given due consideration from the designated Careers Lead and Senior Leadership

Team.

Once the request has been granted, we will ask you for a range of information to share with our learners and parents before the session. This may be a prospectus, letter, presentation to share with learners and parents in advance of your session.

This should include: -

- Details of the opportunities you offer including courses and entry requirements.
- What is learning like with your institution?
- How do you prepare learners for their best next step on successful completion of your course/training?
- Provide examples of linking courses with careers relating to the local labour market and recent positive destinations of learners who have completed their learning with you.

Requests will be considered against: -

- Clashes with other planned activities or visits.
- Interruption to preparation for public or internal examinations.
- Availability of college staff, space and resources to host the session.
- All requests will also be considered in line with the college safeguarding policy. For information on this policy statement or the wider careers programme at The Ridge Employability College, please do not hesitate to contact us.
- The Ridge Employability College will keep a log of all provider requests for access and the outcomes to support the delivery and evaluation of the careers programme.

Opportunities for access

A number of events, integrated into the college's careers programme, will offer providers an opportunity to come into college/attend virtual events to speak to learners and/or their parents/carers.

This policy statement will be evaluated with the Careers Lead and SLT as part of the Compass Evaluation, 3 times each academic year.

Safeguarding

Colleges are not required to complete a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check for a visitor who is in the College for a 'one-off' visit. However, SLT will decide on the appropriate level of supervision for the visit. All visitors to the college are required to provide proof of identity.

If a provider is unable to meet the terms of this policy or has reason to make a complaint in relation to the support provided by the college please e-mail mel@theridgecollege.co.uk (Head of College) who will investigate this further.