



Provider Access Policy Statement

Approved by:	James Skinner	Date: January 2025
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Last reviewed on:	January 2025
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Next review due by:	January 2027
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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. Commitment

The **Wimbledon College** 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. The **Wimbledon College** 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.

The **Wimbledon College** 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

The **Wimbledon College** 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. 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 4.1 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](#), the [Skills and Post-16 Education Act 2022](#) and on page 43 of 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.

4.1 The 6 encounters schools must offer to all pupils in years 8 to 13

Schools must offer:

- 2 encounters for pupils during the 'first key phase' (year 8 or 9)
 - All pupils must attend
 - Encounters can take place any time during year 8, and between 1 September and 28 February during year 9
- 2 encounters for pupils during the 'second key phase' (year 10 or 11)
 - All pupils must attend
 - Encounters can take place any time during year 10, and between 1 September and 28 February during year 11
- 2 encounters for pupils during the 'third key phase' (year 12 or 13)
 - Pupils can choose to attend
 - Encounters can take place any time during year 12, and between 1 September and 28 February during year 13

These encounters must happen for a reasonable period of time during the standard school day. Schools can continue to provide complementary experiences, but encounters outside of school hours won't count towards these requirements.

Schools must ask each provider to provide the following information as a minimum:

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

4.2 Meaningful provider encounters

- Our school is committed to providing meaningful encounters to all pupils.
- 1 encounter is defined as 1 meeting/session between pupils and 1 provider.
- Meaningful live online engagement is also an option at our school.

5. Pupil entitlement

The **Wimbledon College** 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 in National Apprenticeship Week and National Careers Week, in addition to providers attending careers events at Wimbledon College.

All pupils in years 8 to 13 at Wimbledon College are entitled to:

- 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.
- 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.

6. Management of provider access requests

This policy has been developed and is reviewed annually by the Careers Leader and Line Manager (**Bernadett Parrish** and **James Skinner**) based on current good practice guidelines by the Department for Education.

A provider wishing to request access should contact **James Skinner**, Assistant Headteacher/Line Manager or **Bernadett Parrish**, Careers Leader.

Telephone: 02089462533

Email: james.skinner@wimbledoncollege.org.uk or careers @wimbledoncollege.org.uk

5.1 Links with other policies

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

5.2 Equality and Diversity

Access to other providers is available and promoted to allow all students to access information about other providers of further education and apprenticeships. The **Wimbledon College** is committed to encouraging all students to make decisions about their future based on impartial information.

5.3 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. We organise a biennial Careers Fair and invite in a large number of providers including colleges, universities and other providers. Please ask us if you require more information of who came to our Fair.

5.4 Parents and Carers

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

5.5 Granting and refusing access

Access will be given for providers to attend during school assemblies, timetabled PSHE lessons, and Careers or Raising Aspirations events that Wimbledon College is arranging. Students may also travel to visit another provider as part of the trip to be organised in partnership with Wimbledon College.

5.6 Safeguarding

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

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

5.7 Premises and facilities

The **Wimbledon College** will provide an appropriate room or assembly hall to be agreed. All rooms have projectors and screens provided. Computer rooms can also be arranged. The Careers Leader or Assistant Head 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.

Please contact us to discuss requirements that you may have for delivering a talk to pupils.

5.8 Live/Virtual encounters

The Wimbledon College 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.

7. Previous providers

Providers who have been invited into Wimbledon College to date include:

Below provided as an example

- Kingston College
- Ursuline High School
- Durham University
- Surrey University
- The Royal Army
- PWC

8. Pupil destinations

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

- South Thames Colleges (Merton, Kington, Carshalton)
- Nescot College
- Saint Francis Xavier College

Our year 13 pupils moved to a range of providers after school:

- Apprenticeship providers such as MET Police, Unilever
- Wide range of Universities

9. Complaints

Any complaints about this policy should be raised to Bernadett Parrish, email: careers@wimbleodncollege.org.uk

Bernadett Parrish will raise the complaint to James Skinner, Assistant Head Teacher of Wimbledon College or directly with The Careers & Enterprise Company via provideraccess@careersandenterprise.co.uk

10. Monitoring arrangements

The Policy is monitored and evaluated via the Senior Leadership Team and approved by the governing board.

Policy Reviewed: January 2025