

**Approved by Trustees: June 2025**

## **Wilson's School: Provider Access Policy**

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

### **Pupil entitlement**

All pupils in years 8 to 13 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 events, assemblies and group discussions and taster events;
- understand how to make applications for the full range of academic and technical courses.

For pupils of compulsory school age these encounters are mandatory and there will be a minimum of two encounters for pupils during the 'first key phase' (year 8 to 9) and two encounters for pupils during the 'second key phase' (year 10 to 11). For pupils in the 'third key phase' (year 12 to 13), particularly those that have not yet decided on their next steps, there are two more provider encounters available during this period, which are optional for pupils to attend.

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 pupils from the provider)
- answer questions from pupils.

### **Meaningful provider encounters**

One encounter is defined as one meeting/session between pupils and one provider. We are committed to providing meaningful encounters to all pupils using the guidance found under the 'provider access legislation' section of the [DfE Careers guidance and access for education and training providers.](#)

Meaningful online engagement is also an option, and we welcome contact with providers who are able to provide live online engagement for our pupils.

### **Previous providers**

In previous terms we have invited providers from Higher Education, technical qualifications, those offering talks with a career focus or on alternative pathways and companies that offer apprenticeships.

### **Destinations of our pupils**

Last year almost all of our year 11 pupils stayed at Wilson's to continue A Levels study.

Those that left commenced A Levels at other local schools.

Last year nearly all of our year 13 pupils left to study a degree at a UK or international university. Those that did not continue straight into Higher Education typically intend to take a gap year before doing so. A small number of students opt to study degree apprenticeships.

### **Management of provider access requests**

A provider wishing to request access should contact

- Years 7-11: Mr E McLaughlin (Work Related Learning)  
[egm@wilsonsschool.sutton.sch.uk](mailto:egm@wilsonsschool.sutton.sch.uk)
- Years 12-13: Mr J Lawton (Templeton Head of Higher Education & Careers)  
[jl@wilsonsschool.sutton.sch.uk](mailto:jl@wilsonsschool.sutton.sch.uk)

The school offers the six provider encounters required by law and a number of additional events, integrated into the school careers programme. We will offer providers an opportunity to come into school to speak to pupils or their parents or carers. Please speak to our Careers Leaders to identify the most suitable opportunity for you.

The school will make the John Jenkins Hall, assembly venues, classrooms or private meeting rooms available for discussions between the provider and pupils, as appropriate to the activity and in line with our Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy. The school will also make available specialist equipment to support provider presentations. This will all be discussed and agreed in advance of the visit with the Careers Leaders.

Providers are welcome to leave a copy of their prospectus or other relevant course literature in the Careers Room or the Sixth Form study area.

### **Evaluation of the Careers Programme**

The school assess the impact of the careers programme in the following ways:

- We use the Compass+ careers tool to evaluate our programme against the eight benchmarks of best practice (known as the Gatsby Benchmarks).
- The school's Careers Leader has a half-termly meeting with our Enterprise Adviser from our local Careers Hub, to review our provision and consider adaptations.
- Following careers interviews, pupils are sent a questionnaire. The outcomes of this questionnaire are used to review the quality of impartial guidance pupils receive.
- School leaders use options patterns (GCSE and A Level) and destinations (Sixth Form and university) to determine the extent to which our advice and guidance enables pupils to successfully move on to the next stage of their education.
- A termly report is submitted to the Chair of Trustees (normally via a meeting) which is reported to the school's Performance Committee.

### **Approval and review**

The policy has been overseen by the link trust board member for careers. It is reviewed annually in the summer term.

### **Complaints**

Any complaints with regards to provider access can be raised following the school complaints procedure (available on the website) or directly with The Careers & Enterprise Company via [provideraccess@careersandenterprise.co.uk](mailto:provideraccess@careersandenterprise.co.uk)