


Provider Access Policy

Ellesmere Port Catholic High School



Approved by:	PP. Mrs L. Henderson Deputy Headteacher	
	Mrs C. Vile Headteacher	
Lead of Review:	Mr M Hughes Assistant Headteacher	
Last reviewed on:	June 2025	
Next review due by:	July 2026	

Catholic Social Teaching



The Dignity of Work and Education

Through our provider access policy, we enable students to have the opportunities to learn and experience more. The dignity of work and education for all, allows everyone to develop and grow, ensuring they live their lives through Catholic lens.

Introduction

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.

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.

Commitment

Ellesmere Port Catholic High School 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 school 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.

Ellesmere Port Catholic High School 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).

Aims

Ellesmere Port Catholic High School 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).

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;
- 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.

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 Making it meaningful checklist. Meaningful online engagement is also an option, and we are open to providers that are able to provide live online engagement with our pupils.

Previous providers

In previous terms/years we have invited the following providers from the local area to speak to our pupils:

- Cheshire College South and West
- Wirral Metropolitan College
- Reaseheath College
- TTE
- The NHS
- Chester University
- Northumbria University

Working with local employers

Local employers are encouraged to engage with the schools career programme, particularly (but not exclusively) where Apprenticeships and other Technical qualifications are key to your business. We have worked with a range of employers at EPCHS including:

- Bank of America
- Brownlow Furniture
- CCSW
- Countess of Chester Hospital
- Innospec
- The Russel Taylor Group
- TTE

Destinations of our pupils

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

- School sixth form
- Sixth form college
- Further Education providers
- Full time training
- Apprenticeships

These were spread across the following sectors:

- Managerial and Professional
- Secretarial/Clerical
- Vehicle trades
- A range of other sectors

Our Year 13 pupils had a range of providers in the local area and further afield such as:

- Edge Hill University
- Chester University
- Keele University
- Huddersfield University
- The University of Edinburgh
- Staffordshire University

- Toyota Motor Company
- University of Lancaster
- John Moores University
- The University of Sheffield
- Hertford College, Oxford University
- Cardiff University
- Durham University
- BAE Systems
- Salford University
- Bangor University
- The University of York
- York St John's University

Management of provider access requests

A provider wishing to request access should contact Mike Hughes, Assistant Head for Personal Development by email. M.hughes@epchs.co.uk

Opportunities for access

The school offers the six provider encounters required by law (In bold below) 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 Leader to identify the most suitable opportunity for you.

Key Stage	Year	Provider Type
3	7 – HT5	ITP (NHS)
3	8 – HT4	1 hour presentation from local providers of Apprenticeships and T Levels
3	9 – HT3	Apprenticeship Providers Panel (including employers and training providers)
4	10 – HT2	Attending local careers fair (FE colleges, 6th Forms, Apprenticeship providers)
	10 – HT6	Work experience
4	11 – HT3	Post-16 Trial day (including providers of T Levels and Apprenticeships)
5	12	Aintree Apprenticeships Fair
5	12/13	Ellesmere Port Apprenticeships Fair

Grounds for granting requests for access

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

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

Ellesmere Port Catholic High School will provide an appropriate room or assembly hall to be agreed. 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.

Live/Virtual encounters

Ellesmere Port Catholic High School 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.

Providers are welcome to leave a copy of their prospectus or other relevant course literature at the Library, which is managed by the school librarian. This is available to all pupils at lunch and break times. Providers are also welcome to ask for literature to be shared with Sixth Form students in the Silent Study area.