



Discovery Academy: Provider Access Policy Statement;

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Review Cycle	1 year
Review Date	Sept 26



“Learning together, to be the best we can be”

Rationale:

- 1.1. At Discovery Academy we recognise that 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 our 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

- 2.1. Discovery 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. Discovery Academy is fully aware of the responsibility to set students on the path that will secure the best outcomes 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.
- 2.2. Discovery 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

Discovery Academy policy for Access to other education and training providers has the following aims:

- 3.1. To develop the knowledge and awareness of our students of all career pathways available to them, including technical qualifications and apprenticeships.

- 3.2. 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.
- 3.3. 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

Discovery 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 four 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 and careers lessons at school or at each Trust school.

All students in Years 8-11 are entitled:

- to two encounters during the 'first key phase' Year 8 or 9 that are mandatory for all students to attend;
- to two encounters for students during the 'second key phase' Year 10 or 11 that are mandatory for all students to attend;
- 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.

5. Development

This policy has been developed and is reviewed annually by the Careers Leader, SLT and LGB based on current good practice guidelines by the Department for Education School has an annual Quality Assurance (QA) calendar, which outlines the schedule of activity school leaders will undertake to interrogate and confirm judgements made through assessment.

Links with other policies:

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

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. Discovery Academy is committed to encouraging all students to make decisions about their future based on impartial information.

Requests for access:

Requests for access should be directed to Discovery Academy Careers Leader/Assistant Head:
Mr. Andy Pleass

Careers Lead may be contacted by telephone or email: Email: apleass@nexusmat.org

Grounds for granting requests for access:

A number of events, integrated into the school careers programme, will offer providers an opportunity to come in to school to speak to students and /or their parents/carers and staff. Opportunities can also be accessed virtually. Access will be given for providers to attend during school assemblies, timetabled Life Skills or PHSE lessons, and Careers or Raising Aspirations events that Discovery Academy is arranging. Students may also travel to visit another provider as part of the trips to be organised in partnership with Discovery Academy and NEXUS MAT. Providers are welcome to speak with our Careers Lead Andy Pleass to identify the most suitable opportunity.

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

Discovery Academy will provide an appropriate training 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:

Discovery Academy will consider live online encounters with providers where requested, and these may be broadcast into classrooms or the school assembly hall. The school will make available AV and other specialist equipment to support provider presentations. This will all be discussed and agreed in advance of the visit with the Careers Lead or a member of their team. Technology checks in advance will be required to ensure compatibility of systems.

Parents and Carers:

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

Management:

The Careers Leader coordinates all provider requests and is responsible to Senior Leadership Team.

Complaints Procedure:

Any complaints about this policy should be raised to Daniel Shirazi-Nejad, Head of School.

Email: dshirazi-nejad@nexusmat.org

Monitoring review and evaluation:

The Policy is monitored and evaluated annually via the Senior Leadership Team and Local Governing Body.

Policy Coordinator: Careers Lead: Andy Pleass

Policy Reviewed: September 2025

Date of Next Review: September 2026

Appendix

Providers who have been invited into Discovery Academy to date include:

Below provided as an example:

ASK Apprenticeships

Barnsley College

Doncaster College

DWP

FORTEM – Apprenticeship opportunities

Landmarks Specialist College

Rotherham College

The ROC – Supported Internships

Project Search – Supported Internships

Sheffield College

Streetpride

Nottinghamshire College

Destinations of previous pupils from Discovery Academy include:

Barnsley College

Doncaster College

FORTEM

Landmarks Specialist College

Rotherham College

The ROC – Supported Internships

Project Search – Supported Internships

Sheffield College

Streetpride

Nottinghamshire College