



Provider Access Policy

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Signed by Chair of Governors: Mr Jon Rigby

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Date approved: March 2026
Signed by Headteacher: Mrs Natasha Wilmore

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St John Fisher
Catholic High School

Policy and Procedures

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**‘I have come that they may have life and
have it to the full’ John 10:10**

Our school motto embodies everything that we aim to achieve for all members of our learning community. We strive to live the gift of life that God has given us and in our endeavours to live life to the full we will do our best to reach our aspirations and, in achieving these, to use our successes to benefit others. ‘The Lord blesses our work so that we may share its fruits with others’ (Deuteronomy 14: 28-29). The work that we do in supporting our students in making the right choices for their future education is an essential part of our Catholic Social Teaching on human dignity and the dignity of workers and participation. We know that everyone is a loved creation of God and as such has a right and a duty to develop the gifts they have received from Him and to discern their path in life. Supporting students with their vocational journey is part of our mission. We want our students to flourish as individuals with a deep understanding of the importance of using their gifts to show love and service to the wider community. In the work that we do in guiding our students to make the right choices for their education and future careers, we aim to ensure that they receive timely and purposeful access to providers, and we hope that “No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.” (Matthew 5: 15-16).

Provider Access

Access for colleges, training providers, university technical colleges, universities and all other post 16 providers, including technical, vocational and academic routes and apprenticeships

Updated January 2023

This policy statement sets out the school’s arrangements for managing the access of providers to pupils at 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 7 – 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, group discussions and taster events
- To understand how to make applications for the full range of academic and technical courses.

In line with the updated Provider Access Legislation, from January 2023, all schools must provide a minimum of six encounters for all students with post 16 providers, as above. This is broken down into key phases: -

- Year 8 or 9 - Two encounters for students that are mandatory for all to attend.
- Year 10 or 11 - Two encounters for students that are mandatory for all to attend
- Year 12 or 13 - Two encounters that are mandatory for the school to put on but optional for students 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 students from the provider)
- answer questions from all students, including our most vulnerable and those with additional learning needs

Management of Provider Access Requests

A provider wishing to request access should contact:

Donna Maudsley, Careers Lead

donna.maudsley@stjohnfisherschool.org.uk

Opportunities for Access

A number of events, integrated into the school careers programme, will offer providers an opportunity to come into school to speak to pupils and / or their parents / carers. Please contact our Careers Lead for any further information on this.

Premises and Facilities

The school will make suitable rooms available for events involving contact between a provider and students. The school will also make any standard AV equipment available. Requirements should be discussed in advance with the Careers Lead.

Providers can leave a copy of their prospectus in the Study Centre, where the Careers Hub is located. This is available to all students at break and lunch times.

Live/Virtual Encounters

St John Fisher Catholic School will consider live online encounters with providers where requested, and these may be broadcast into classrooms of the school assembly hall. Technology checks in advance will be required to ensure compatibility of systems.

Monitoring, Evaluation and Review

The Headteacher will ensure that:

1. the work of the Careers Lead, Careers Advisor and CEIAG events are supported and monitored
2. a member of the Senior Leadership Team has an overview of CEIAG work and reports regularly back to the team

The effectiveness of this policy will be measured in a variety of ways:

1. Feedback from stakeholders through student voice, event or visit evaluations, school surveys, learning walks, observations.
2. Feedback from external visitors to the school such as Ofsted;
3. Using the Gatsby Benchmarks (Unifrog) and the Compass Audit system.

4. The number of students who are NEET in October having left the school in the previous summer. This figure can be compared to national figures as well as against the equivalent figure from similar schools both nationally and within the county.

The governors of St John Fisher Catholic High School will review this policy annually.

Linked documents

Legislation and guidance documents referred to during the development of the programme are:

DfE Careers Strategy January 2018

DfE Careers Guidance and Inspiration in Schools April 2017

DfE Careers Guidance and Access for Education and Training Providers July 2021

CDI Careers & Enterprise Framework 2021

CDI Gatsby Benchmark Toolkit 2018

DfE New Guidance on Work Experience 16-19 March 2017

The Education Act 2011 – The duty to secure independent and impartial careers guidance for young people in schools

Provider Access Legislation 2023