Provider Access Policy

Policy reviewed by:	**Safety and Wellbeing Committee**
Meeting:	**Spring**
Review frequency:	**Two Years**
Approved:	**May 2026**
Next review:	**May 2028**

Rationale:

High quality careers education and guidance in school or college is critical to young peoples' 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:

Selly Oak Trust 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. Selly Oak Trust 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.

The Selly Oak Trust 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:

Selly Oak Trust 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).

Student Entitlement:

Selly Oak Trust School 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, and pathways suitable to the school cohort. This will be done in assemblies, Skills for Life lessons and National Careers Week, in addition to providers attending careers events at school and within faculty lessons.

Development:

This policy has been developed and is reviewed annually by the Careers Leader, Simon Pearson (Assistant Headteacher) based on current good practice guidelines by the Department for Education.

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 further education and apprenticeships. Selly Oak Trust School 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 Simon Pearson, Careers Leader. Simon Pearson may be contacted by telephone or email, simon.pearson@sellyoak.bham.sch.uk or on 0121 472 0876.

Grounds for granting requests for access:

Access will be given for providers to attend during school assemblies, timetabled Skills for Life lessons, and Careers or Raising Aspirations events that Selly Oak Trust School is arranging. Students may also travel to visit another provider as part of an educational visit.

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

Selly Oak Trust 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:

Selly Oak Trust 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.

Parents and Carers:

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

Management:

The Careers Leader co-ordinates all provider requests and is responsible to the Headteacher.

Appendix:

Providers who have been invited into Selly Oak Trust School to date include:

- South and City College Birmingham
- Halesowen College
- Solihull College
- Birmingham Metropolitan College
- Royal Mencap Supported Internship
- NHS Choices College Supported Internships
- Sandwell College
- HSBC
- NatWest
- Hippodrome
- West Midlands Travel
- Birmingham Central Library
- West Midlands Fire Service
- Severn Trent
- Open theatre
- The Works
- Crowne Plaza hotel
- Edgbaston Cricket club
- Holiday Inn Express
- Staybridge Suites

Destinations of previous pupils from Selly Oak Trust School include:

- South and City College Birmingham
- Halesowen College
- Solihull College
- Birmingham Metropolitan College
- Sandwell College
- Royal Mencap Supported Internship
- Queen Alexandra College
- Westminster College
- Heart of Birmingham Vocational College
- Full time employment