



Walkwood
Church of England  Middle School

Careers Programme and Provider Access Policy

Governing Body Committee responsible:	Teaching, Learning and Curriculum
Approval granted: 7 April 2025	Review date: Spring 2028



Our Vision:

In our inclusive community,
Each valued individual is taught self-belief

We are resilient and optimistic,
Caring for ourselves and our peers.

We are Children of God, with hope,
Awe and wonder in our hearts.

Our Bible verse:

Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you. *Ephesians 4:32*

Respect - Believe - Succeed

Our Values

Respect – Friendship - Honesty - Kindness



Introduction

This policy statement sets out the 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.

Walkwood Church of England Middle School is committed to providing a personalised education package for all our pupils, and this is reflected by our careers programme. Pupils will access different elements of the programme at different stages of their education whilst the focus will always be on preparing them for their future pathways, considering their own preferences. Our Careers Action Plan outlines our generic careers offer from Year 7 to Year 8. For some pupils, a more personalised offer will be in place.

Our focus links directly to the requirements of the 'Gatsby Good Career Guidance' report (2014) which became the basis for the statutory 'Career's guidance and access for education and training providers' (2023).

Pupil entitlement

The statutory guidance is relevant to 'all pupils in years 7-13' and we will also consider young people's developmental ages when preparing appropriate careers activities at Walkwood Church of England Middle School ensuring that our pupils receive a careers programme which offers them opportunities to:

- find out about technical education qualifications and apprenticeship 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.
- understand how to make applications for the full range of academic and technical courses.

School's Careers Leader

Parents, teachers, and employers may gain further information about our careers programme by contacting:

CAREERS LEAD NAME: Mrs K Khan

CAREERS LEAD POSITION: Head of PSHE and Careers

CAREERS LEAD TEL NO: 01527 543361

CAREERS LEAD EMAIL ADDRESS: office@walkwoodms.worcs.sch.uk

Measuring and Assessment of the impact of the careers programme on pupils.

Evaluation of our careers programme is designed to enable us to examine what we do; consider how we can improve it and provide stakeholders with a summary of this.

This will include gathering information from the pupils about how they feel about their experiences in relation to the careers programme.

Pupil progress in Careers lessons will be evaluated each term as part of our ongoing Pupil Tracking process.



It is our aim to provide pupils with both experiences of the workplace and / or encounters with employers. These encounters and experiences will take place as part of curriculum lessons / workplace visits / assemblies / attending Careers Fairs and Events.

Management of provider access requests

Procedure

A provider wishing to request access should contact: Mrs K Khan

Telephone: 01527 543361

Email: office@walkwoodms.worcs.sch.uk

Opportunities for access

The school offers a comprehensive Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance programme and an overview of this programme can be seen in the School's Careers Charter which can be seen on the school website.

Please speak to our Careers Leader to identify the most suitable opportunity for you.

The school will make a suitable space available for discussions between the provider and students, as appropriate to the activity. The school will also make available ICT and other specialist equipment to support provider presentations. This will all be discussed and agreed in advance of the visit with the Careers Leader/Advisor or a member of their team.

All requests will be given due consideration by Walkwood Church of England Middle School and Senior Leadership link (Mrs M Johnson) and requests will be refused if:

- They impinge on pupils' preparation for public or internal exams
- They clash with other school events such as visits, other speakers, well-being days, school photographs, sports days, public or internal exams, parents' communication events etc.
- The school is unable to provide staff to support the presentation or talk due to previous commitments
- Rooming for the talk or event is unable to be found due to timetabling clashes

Providers are welcome to leave a copy of their prospectus or other relevant course literature with the Careers Advisor so that they can be displayed in the Careers Section of the school library.

All visitors to school need to adhere to our safeguarding procedures, with appropriate checks being carried out.

Feedback

Walkwood Church of England Middle School welcomes parental and employer participation within our careers related activities. Should you wish to support our activity or provide feedback on our Careers Strategy then please contact our Strategic Careers Lead directly.



Provider Access Legislation

The provider access legislation is new guidance that came into force from January 2023. It is a key mechanism to further help learners understand and take-up, not just apprenticeships, but wider technical education options such as T-Levels and Higher Technical Qualifications.

The updated provider access legislation (PAL) specifies schools must provide at least six encounters for all their students:

- Two encounters for pupils during the ‘first key phase’ (year 8 or 9) that are mandatory for all pupils to attend
- Two encounters for pupils during the ‘second key phase’ (year 10 or 11) that are mandatory for all pupils to attend
- Two encounters for pupils during the ‘third key phase’ (year 12 or 13) that are mandatory for the school to put on but optional for pupils to attend.

In the context of the provider access legislation, a provider is an organisation that offers approved technical education qualifications or their representative, for example an FE college or training provider.

A provider, to whom access is given, must deliver an encounter that includes the following:

- Information about the provider and the approved technical education qualifications or apprenticeships that the provider offers
- Information about the careers to which those technical education qualifications or apprenticeships might lead
- A description of what learning or training with the provider is like
- Responses to questions from the pupils about the provider or approved technical education qualifications and apprenticeships.

The full statutory guidance from DfE can be found here [Careers guidance and access for education and training providers – GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/guidance/careers-guidance-and-access-for-education-and-training-providers).

