

Southmoor Academy



PROVIDER ACCESS POLICY

Introduction

This policy statement sets out Southmoor Academy's arrangements for managing the access of providers to pupils at academies within the Academy for the purposes of giving them information about the provider's education or training offer. This complies with legal obligations under Section 42B of the Education Act 1997, The Department of Education, July 2021: "Baker Clause" and the Provider Access Legislation, January 2023.

Rationale

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.

Aims

The Southmoor Academy 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

Southmoor 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. Southmoor Academy 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.

Students 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 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 phrase' (Years 8 to 9) and two encounters during the 'second key phase' (Years 10 to 11). For pupils in the 'third key phase' (Years 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 providers encounters

One encounter is defined as one meeting/session between pupils and one provider. Meaningful online engagement is also an option, and we are open to providers that are able to provide live online engagement with our pupils.

Management of provider access requests

Procedure

A provider wishing to request access should contact:

Simon Wareham, Assistant Headteacher – Student Progression (Careers Leader)

Telephone: (0191) 5949991 / Email: careers@southmoormat.co.uk

Opportunities for access

Southmoor Academy offers the six provider encounters required by law (marked in bold text above) 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 careers – please see Appendix 1: Annual Calendar of Events.

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

Safeguarding

The Trust's policy on safeguarding sets out the approach to allowing providers into the academies as visitors to talk to our students. The Safeguarding Policy is available on our website www.southmoorschool.co.uk. Education and training providers will be expected to adhere to this policy.

Premises and facilities

The Academy will make the main hall, classrooms or private meeting rooms available for discussions between the provider and students, as appropriate to the activity. We will also 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 Leader. Providers are welcome to leave a copy of their prospectus or other relevant course literature with our Careers Leader who will distribute the relevant information to pupils.

Live/Virtual encounters

Southmoor Academy 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.

Links to other policies

This policy should be read in conjunction with the Learning Policy, RSE, Health Education and PSHCE Policy, Work Experience Policy and Careers Policy.

Monitoring Arrangements

The Academy's arrangements for managing the access of education and training providers to students are monitored by the named Careers Leader.

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

Sunderland College
Newcastle College
East Durham College
New College Durham
Gateshead College
South Tyneside College
North East Futures UTC
Seta
Springboard
MPCT
Learning Curve
Foundation of Light
Resources NE
Access Training Ltd

Destinations of previous pupils from Southmoor Academy include:

The Sixth Form at Southmoor Academy
Sunderland College
Newcastle College
East Durham College
New College Durham
Gateshead College
Seta
MPCT

Last review date: 12.03.25

Next review due: Spring 2026

Person Responsible: Assistant Headteacher: Student Progression

APPENDIX 1: ANNUAL CALENDAR OF EVENTS

	Autumn Term	Spring Term	Summer Term
Year 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assemblies Careers Weeks in individual subjects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assemblies Careers Weeks in individual subjects PSHE Careers & Aspirations module National Apprenticeship & Careers Weeks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assemblies Careers Weeks in individual subjects PSHE Careers & Aspirations module
Year 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assemblies Careers Weeks in individual curriculum areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assemblies Parents' Evening Careers Weeks in individual curriculum areas PSHCE Careers & Aspirations Module National Apprenticeship & Careers Weeks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assemblies Careers Weeks in individual curriculum areas PSHCE Careers & Aspirations Module
Year 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assemblies Careers Fair Careers Weeks in individual curriculum areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assemblies Careers Weeks in individual curriculum areas PSHCE Careers & Aspirations Module GCSE Options Events National Apprenticeship & Careers Weeks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assemblies Parents' Evening Careers Weeks in individual curriculum areas
Year 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assemblies Careers Fair Careers Weeks in individual curriculum areas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assemblies Parents' Evening Careers Weeks in individual curriculum areas. PSHCE Careers & Aspirations Module National Apprenticeship & Careers Weeks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assemblies Mock Interviews Careers Weeks in individual curriculum areas Year 10 Work Experience week
Year 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assemblies Parents' Evening Sixth Form Open Evening Careers Weeks in individual curriculum areas Apprenticeship Introduction presentation Careers Fair 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assemblies Parents' Evening National Apprenticeship & Careers Weeks Apprenticeship workshops Careers Weeks in individual curriculum areas PSHCE Careers & Aspirations Module 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assemblies Careers Weeks in individual curriculum areas
Year 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assemblies Sixth Form Open Evening Parents' Evening Careers Weeks in individual curriculum areas. UCAS Information evening Careers Fair Introduction to higher level apprenticeships 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assemblies Sixth Form Open Evening Parents' Evening Careers Weeks in individual curriculum areas National Apprenticeship & Careers Weeks Building My Skills programme 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assemblies Year 12 Work Experience Week Careers Weeks in individual curriculum areas Year 12 Careers Explorer Mock Interviews
Year 13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assemblies Sixth Form Open Evening Parents' Evening Careers Weeks in individual curriculum areas Careers Fair 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assemblies Sixth Form Open Evening Parents' Evening Careers Weeks in individual curriculum areas National Apprenticeship & Careers Weeks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assemblies Careers Weeks in individual curriculum areas