TOWERS SCHOOL
AND SIXTH FORM CENTRE

# Provider Access Policy

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**SLT Responsibility: R.Billings (**K.Murray )
**Approved:** Board of Trustees

# THE TOWERS SCHOOL & SIXTH FORM CENTRE

PROVIDER ACCESS POLICY – changes from previous version

| **Audit Log** | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Section of policy** | **Update** | **Date** |
| Page 3 – Aims | New section added in – suggested to add by looking at best practise from The Key and CEC | 10/9/25 |
| Page 3 – Statutory Requirements | New section added in – suggested to add by looking at best practise from The Key and CEC | 10/9/25 |
| Page 5 – Previous Providers | Updated list of providers that were invited to come into school in the last academic year 24/25 | 10/9/25 |
| Page 6 - Destinations | Destination data from 23/24 added | 10/9/25 |
| Page 9 – Online Encounters | New section added in – suggested to add by looking at best practise from The Key and CEC | 10/9/25 |
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## The Towers School & Sixth Form Centre

# Provider Access Policy

**Introduction**

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.

**Aims**

At Towers we aim to provide all pupils from year 8 to 13 with meaningful opportunities to explore a wide range of future options.

This policy statement aims to set out our school's arrangements for managing the access of education and training providers to pupils for the purpose of giving them information about their offer. It sets out:

- Procedures in relation to requests for access
- The grounds for granting and refusing requests for access
- Details of premises or facilities to be provided to a provider who is given access

As a school we aim to:

- Develop knowledge and awareness among our pupils of all career pathways available to them, including technical qualifications and apprenticeships
- Support pupils in learning more about opportunities for education and training outside of school, before they make crucial choices about their future options
- Reduce drop-out from courses and avoid the risk of pupils becoming NEET (not in education, employment or training)

**Statutory Requirements**

Schools are required to ensure that there is an opportunity for a range of education and training providers to access students in years 8 to 13 for the purposes of informing them about approved technical education, qualifications or apprenticeships.

Schools must provide a minimum of 6 encounters with technical education or training providers to all pupils in years 8 to 13 (see more detail in section 2.1 below).

Schools must also have a policy statement that outlines the circumstances in which education and training providers will be given access to these pupils.

This is outlined in:

- Section 42B of the Education Act 1997
- Education and Skills Act 2008
- The School Information (England) Regulations 2008

- The Skills and Post-16 Education Act 2022
- Guidance from the Department for Education (DfE) on careers guidance and access for education and training providers

This policy shows how our school complies with these requirements

**Pupil Entitlement**

All pupils in years 7-14 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 phase' (year 8 to 9) and two encounters for pupils during the 'second key phase' (year 10 to 11). For pupils in the 'third key phase' (year 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)

**Meaningful Provider Encounter**

One encounter is defined as one meeting/session between pupils and one provider. We are committed to providing meaningful encounters to all pupils using the Making it meaningful checklist.

Meaningful online engagement is also an option, and we are open to providers that are able to provide live online engagement with our pupils.

**Previous Providers**

In the academic year 2024/25 we have invited the following providers in to speak to our pupils:

| |
|---|
| Army |
| Ashford Borough Council |
| BAM Construction |
| Canterbury Christchurch Creative Arts |
| Caterbury Oast Trust |
| Charlton Athletic Football Academy |
| Eastwell Manor Hotel & Spa |
| Home Instead |
| Home Office Border Force |
| Kent Fire & Rescue |
| Kent Police |
| PCAS Kent |
| QinetiQ Target Systems |
| Reeves & Co |
| Royal Navy & Royal Marines |
| The Care Company |
| Elwick Hair and Beauty |
| Nationwide Bank |
| Ashford International Hotel and Spa |
| Action Watersports |
| Cafe Nero |
| Nusteel Structures Limited |
| Rob Horswell Training |
| Holiday Extras |
| BAE Systems |
| Cre8tive Play Ashford |
| CXK |
| PGL - Ashford |
| OSG Architecture Limited |
| J C White Geomatics Limited |
| Premier Foods |
| Tesco/ Lifetime Training |

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| Sports Connect Careers |
| Touch Tech |
| Prestige Hair and Beauty |
| Amazon |
| Ashford United FC |
| Bakkavor |
| Barclays |
| Rift Tax Refunds |
| The One Hospital |
| Hadlow College |
| EKC Ashford College |
| University of Chicester |
| University of Exeter |
| University of Portsmouth |
| Kent University |

**Destination of our Pupils**

Last year our year 11 pupils moved to range of providers in the local area after school:

| Destination | 2022/2023 | 2023/24 |
|---|---|---|
| **Grammar** | 3% | 3% |
| **Colleges** | 31.5% | 44% |
| **Army** | 0.% | 0% |
| **Apprenticeship** | 6.5% | 4% |
| **NEET** | 1.5% | 1.5% |
| **Towers 6th Form** | 46.5% | 40% |
| **Others** | 11% | 7.5% |

Last year our year 13 pupils moved to range of providers in the local area after school:

| Destination | 2022/2023 | 2023/24 |
|---|---|---|
| **Work** | 46% | 34% |
| **Apprenticeship** | 11% | 11% |
| **University** | 35% | 48% |
| **Staying at Towers** | 5% | 3% |
| **Other** | 3% | 4% |
| **NEET** | 0% | 0% |

**Management of Provider Access Requests**

**Procedure**
A provider wishing to request access should contact

Kevin Murray
Careers Lead
01233 634171 ext 243
k.murray@towers.school

The school will then work with providers in order to identify the most effective opportunity for them to share information about education and training opportunities

**Opportunities for Access**

The school offers the six provider encounters required by law (marked in bold text) 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 carers. Please speak to our Careers Lead to identify the most suitable opportunity for you.

| | **Term 01** | **Term 02** | **Term 03** |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Year 7** | UniFrog Session - Log in, interests profile & search careers library<br><br>(Benchmark 1, 3, & 4)<br><br>Targeted Careers Talks Where Appropriate<br><br>(Benchmark 1, 3, 4 & 5) | National Apprenticeship Week<br><br>(Benchmark 1, 2, 3 & 5)<br><br>National Careers Week<br><br>(Benchmark 1, 2, 3 & 5)<br><br>Targeted Careers Talks Where Appropriate<br><br>(Benchmark 1, 3, 4 & 5) | UniFrog Session - Careers library treasure hunt & terminology - to plan<br><br>(Benchmark 1, 3, & 4)<br><br>Targeted Careers Talks Where Appropriate<br><br>(Benchmark 1, 3, 4 & 5) |
| **Year 8** | UniFrog Session - Activities<br><br>(Benchmark 1, 3, & 4)<br><br>Targeted Careers Talks Where Appropriate<br><br>(Benchmark 1, 3, 4 & 5) | Unifrog session - Success<br><br>(Benchmark 1, 3, & 4)<br><br>National Apprenticeship Week<br><br>(Benchmark 1, 2, 3 & 5)<br><br>National Careers Week<br><br>(Benchmark 1, 2, 3 & 5)<br><br>Targeted Careers Talks Where Appropriate<br><br>(Benchmark 1, 3, 4 & 5) | UniFrog Session - Careers library treasure hunt & what makes a great communicator<br><br>(Benchmark 1, 3, & 4)<br><br>Targeted Careers Talks Where Appropriate<br><br>(Benchmark 1, 3, 4 & 5)<br><br>**East Kent College Presentation on Life at College and T-Levels (PAL)**<br><br>(Benchmark 1, 2, 3, 5 & 7) |
| **Year 9** | UniFrog Session - Skills<br><br>(Benchmark 1, 3, & 4)<br><br>Careers Fair<br><br>(Benchmark 1, 2, 3 & 5)<br><br>Targeted Careers Talks Where Appropriate | Key Stage 4 Options Support<br><br>(Benchmark 1, 2, 3 & 4)<br><br>Unifrog session - What's your dream job<br><br>(Benchmark 1, 3, & 4)<br><br>National Apprenticeship Week | UniFrog Session -Personality profile, careers library & competencies<br><br>(Benchmark 1, 3, & 4)<br><br>Targeted Careers Talks Where Appropriate<br><br>(Benchmark 1, 3, 4 & 5) |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | (Benchmark 1, 3, 4 & 5) | (Benchmark 1, 2, 3 & 5)<br><br>National Careers Week<br><br>(Benchmark 1, 2, 3 & 5)<br><br>**Education People - Key Stage 4 Technical Options and Apprenticeships (PAL)**<br><br>(Benchmark 1, 2, 3, 5 & 7)<br><br>Targeted Careers Talks Where Appropriate<br><br>(Benchmark 1, 3, 4 & 5) | |
| **Year 10** | Careers Fair<br><br>(Benchmark 1, 2, 3 & 5)<br><br>Targeted Careers Talks Where Appropriate<br><br>(Benchmark 1, 3, 4 & 5) | National Apprenticeship Week<br><br>(Benchmark 1, 2, 3 & 5)<br><br>National Careers Week<br><br>(Benchmark 1, 2, 3 & 5)<br><br>**EKC - Post 16 Technical Options (PAL)**<br><br>(Benchmark 1, 2, 3, 5 & 7)<br><br>Targeted Careers Talks Where Appropriate<br><br>(Benchmark 1, 3, 4 & 5)<br><br>Pre Work Experience | Week Work Experience<br><br>(Benchmark 1, 5 & 6)<br><br>UniFrog Session - Post work experience and personal profile writing<br><br>(Benchmark 1, 3, & 4)<br><br>Targeted Careers Talks Where Appropriate<br><br>(Benchmark 1, 3, 4 & 5)<br><br>Post Work Experience<br><br>(Benchmark 1, 2, 3, 4 & 8) |
| **Year 11** | 1-2-1 Interviews with Level 6 Qualified Careers Advisor<br><br>(Benchmark 1, 2, 3,4 & 8)<br><br>1-2-1 Individual Support with Kent Choices & Next Steps<br><br>**Careers Fair (PAL)**<br><br>(Benchmark 1, 2, 3 & 5)<br><br>Targeted Careers Talks Where Appropriate | National Apprenticeship Week<br><br>(Benchmark 1, 2, 3 & 5)<br><br>1-2-1 Individual Support with Kent Choices & Next Steps<br><br>(Benchmark 1, 2, 3,4 & 8)<br><br>National Careers Week<br><br>(Benchmark 1, 2, 3 & 5)<br><br>Targeted Careers Talks Where Appropriate<br><br>(Benchmark 1, 3, 4 & 5) | Targeted Careers Talks Where Appropriate<br><br>(Benchmark 1, 3, 4 & 5)<br><br>1-2-1 Individual Support with Kent Choices & Next Steps<br><br>(Benchmark 1, 2, 3,4 & 8) |

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|---|---|---|---|
| | (Benchmark 1, 3, 4 & 5) | | |
| **Sixth Form** | 1-2-1 Interviews with Level 6 Qualified Careers Advisor (Yr13)<br><br>(Benchmark 1, 2, 3,4 & 8)<br><br>Careers Fair<br><br>(Benchmark 1, 2, 3 & 5)<br><br>Targeted Careers Talks Where Appropriate<br><br>(Benchmark 1, 3, 4 & 5) | 1-2-1 Interviews with Level 6 Qualified Careers Advisor (Yr12)<br><br>(Benchmark 1, 2, 3,4 & 8)<br><br>National Apprenticeship Week<br><br>(Benchmark 1, 2, 3 & 5)<br><br>**ASK Apprenticeship Workshops (PAL)**<br><br>(Benchmark 1, 2, 3, 5 & 7)<br><br>National Careers Week<br><br>(Benchmark 1, 2, 3 & 5)<br><br>Targeted Careers Talks Where Appropriate<br><br>(Benchmark 1, 3, 4 & 5) | **University of Kent University and Apprenticeship Fair (PAL)**<br><br>(Benchmark 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 & 7)<br><br>Week Work Experience (Yr12)<br><br>(Benchmark 1, 5 & 6)<br><br>Targeted Careers Talks Where Appropriate<br><br>(Benchmark 1, 3, 4 & 5) |

**Live Online Encounters**

We will consider requests for live online encounters with providers, which may be broadcast into classrooms or the school assembly hall. We will need to carry out technology checks in advance to make sure systems are compatible

**Premises and Facilities**

The school will make the main hall, classrooms or private meeting rooms available for discussions between the provider and students, as appropriate to the activity.

The school will also make available 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 the Senior Leadership Team.

Providers are welcome to leave a copy of their prospectus or other relevant course literature with the Careers Lead or a member of their team so they can be displayed in the schools Careers Centre. The Careers Centre is available to all students at before school, over lunchtime and during enrichment time.

Access to students and/or parents will be granted on the understanding that information and guidance offered by providers is related to technical courses and apprenticeship opportunities only.

Providers will be expected to meet the school's safeguarding requirements which can be found in the Child Protection Policy and Procedures accessible on the school website.

**What are the rules for granting and refusing access requests?**

We will grant access requests that meet the following criteria:

- Support the learning of Towers School students.
- Develop student understanding of careers and employment.
- Inspire young people to consider a range of career opportunities.

We will refuse any access request that:

- Do not support the learning of Towers School students.
- Do not make it clear that there are a range of qualifications or employers that students could find future placements or employment.

**Complaints**

Any complaints with regards to provider access can be raised following the school complaints procedure or directly with The Careers & Enterprise Company via provideraccess@careersandenterprise.co.uk