



Provider Access Policy 2026-2027

Review

This policy will be reviewed annually to ensure compliance with statutory guidance and current legislation.

Policy Owner: Careers Lead

Review Date: September 2026

Next Review: September 2027

Introduction

This policy sets out Weston Favell Academy's arrangements for managing the access of education and training providers to pupils for the purpose of giving them information about technical education, apprenticeship and career opportunities.

This policy complies with the Academy's legal obligations under Section 42B of the Education Act 1997 and the Provider Access Legislation (Skills and Post-16 Education Act 2022). It also reflects the latest Department for Education statutory guidance on Careers Guidance and Access for Education and Training Providers (June 2026).

Student Entitlement

All pupils in Years 7–13 are entitled to:

- Learn about the full range of education, training and employment opportunities available to them 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, technical and vocational courses.
- Receive impartial information, advice and guidance that supports their individual career aspirations.

Provider Access Legislation – Six Provider Encounters

In line with statutory requirements, Weston Favell Academy will provide at least six meaningful encounters with approved providers of technical education and apprenticeships. These will be scheduled as follows:

- Two encounters for pupils in Years 8 or 9 (mandatory for all pupils).
- Two encounters for pupils in Years 10 or 11 (mandatory for all pupils).
- Two encounters for pupils in Years 12 or 13 (the Academy must offer these; attendance is not compulsory).

Each encounter will:

- Introduce the provider and the approved technical qualifications and/or apprenticeships they offer.
- Explain the career routes these opportunities can lead to.
- Provide insight into what learning or training with that provider is like.
- Offer pupils the opportunity to ask questions and engage in discussion.

Management of Provider Access Requests

A provider wishing to request access should contact:

Melissa Ryder Wolf

Careers Lead

Telephone: 01604 402121

Email: mford@westonfavellacademy.org

Opportunities for access will be built into the Academy's careers programme. We welcome engagement at events such as assemblies, careers fairs, curriculum-linked activities, lunchtime drop-in sessions, employer encounters and mock interviews. Encounters may be delivered face-to-face or virtually.

Premises and Facilities

The Academy will make appropriate spaces available for providers to meet pupils, such as the main hall, classrooms or private meeting rooms. Specialist equipment will be provided as appropriate and agreed in advance with the Careers Lead or their team.

Providers may also leave prospectuses, literature and digital resources for distribution via the Academy library or careers resources.

Commitment to Impartiality and Inclusion

The Academy is committed to ensuring that pupils are aware of the full range of education, training and employment options available to them. Information presented by providers will always be impartial and will cover academic, technical and apprenticeship routes equally.

The Academy will ensure that careers education, provider encounters and workplace experiences are inclusive, accessible and appropriately adapted for all pupils, including those with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) and Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs).

Work Experience

In line with Department for Education statutory guidance, Weston Favell Academy is committed to supporting the Government's ambition that every young person experiences the equivalent of two weeks of meaningful workplace experiences before completing compulsory education and post-16 study.

Workplace experiences may include:

- Traditional work experience placements.
- Employer-led projects.
- Workplace visits.
- Virtual work experience opportunities.
- Employer encounters and industry insight activities.

These experiences support pupils in developing employability skills, increasing awareness of career pathways and making informed decisions about future education, training and employment. Particular consideration will be given to ensuring equitable access for all pupils, including those with SEND.