



Provider Access Policy



North East
Learning Trust



PROVIDER ACCESS POLICY STATEMENT

(Includes The Department of Education, July 2021: “Baker Clause” and the Provider Access Legislation, January 2023)

Ownership: NELT/Teesdale School and Sixth Form

Date updated: September 2025

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.

Commitment

Teesdale 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. Teesdale 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.

Teesdale 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

Teesdale 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

Teesdale 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. This will be done by: careers fairs, careers trips/activities, careers visits from external providers in school and in assembly, celebration of National Apprenticeship Week, National Careers Week and Green Careers Week, pastoral sessions for careers, lessons from the real world, Unifrog and weekly careers newsletters.

Development

This policy has been developed and is reviewed annually by the Careers Leader (Bethany Ward) and Line Manager (Dan Pilling) 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 other providers of further education and apprenticeships. Teesdale 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 Bethany Ward, Careers Leader. Bethany Ward may be contacted by telephone or email, Bethany.ward@teesdaleschool.co.uk, Tel 01833 638 166

Grounds for granting requests for access

Access will be given for providers to attend during school assemblies, timetabled Careers or Life lessons, and Careers or Raising Aspirations events that Teesdale School is arranging. Students may also travel to visit another provider as part of a trip to be organised in partnership with Teesdale School.

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

Teesdale 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

Teesdale 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 may be invited to attend the events to meet the providers.

Management

The Careers Leader coordinates all provider requests and is responsible to his/her senior management line manager.

Complaints Procedure

Any complaints about this policy should be raised to Dan Pilling, email:
daniel.pilling@teesdaleschool.co.uk

Dan Pilling will raise the complaint to the Head of Teesdale School.

Monitoring review and evaluation

The Policy is monitored and evaluated annually via the Careers Leader and Careers Senior Leadership Team link.

Policy Coordinator: Bethany Ward

Policy Reviewed: September 2025

Appendix

Providers who have been invited into Teesdale School and Sixth Form to date (From September 2022) include:

GSK
Caterpillar
Cummins
Raby Estates
Darlington College
Bishop Auckland College
New College Durham
Northern School of Art
Auckland Project
Ask Apprenticeships
Fire Service
Police
Navy

NHS
Shotton Hall SCITT
Dream Bigger (Nat West - Virtual sessions)
Northumbria University
Durham University
Newcastle University
Durham Works
PiE (Performance in Education)
Unifrog

Destinations of previous pupils from Teesdale School and Sixth Form include:

Askham Bryan College
Darlington College
Queen Elizabeth Sixth Form Centre
University Technical College (UTC) South Durham
East Durham College
Bishop Auckland College
South West Durham College
Houghall College
Teesdale School and Sixth Form
Apprenticeships
University of Leeds
Teesside University
Manchester Metropolitan University
University of Stirling
Loughborough University
York St John University
The University of Edinburgh
Lancaster University
University of Manchester
Northumbria University
University of St Andrews
Bristol, University of the West of England
Newcastle University
Nottingham Trent University
Leeds Beckett University
Liverpool John Moores University
University of Sheffield
University of York
University of Oxford
Sheffield Hallam University
University of Liverpool

