Provider Access Policy

Space Studio West London
an Aspirations Academy

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Contents

1. Aims and rationale 1
2. Statutory requirements 2
3. Student entitlement 3
4. Management of provider access requests 3
5. Previous providers 5
6. Pupil destinations 5
7. Complaints 5
8. Links to other policies: 5
9. Monitoring arrangements 5

1. Aims and 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.

Space Studio West London 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. Space Studio West London 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.

Space Studio West London 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 DfE, July 2021: "Baker Clause": supporting students to understand the full range of education and training options, and the Provider Access Legislation, January 2023).

This policy statement aims to set out our academy's arrangements for managing the access of education and training providers to students 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 person who is given access

2. 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 students.

This is outlined in section 42B of the Education Act 1997, the Skills and Post-16 Act 2022 and on page 43 of guidance from the Department for Education (DfE) on careers guidance and access for education and training providers.

This policy shows how our academy complies with these requirements.

2.1 The 6 encounters schools must offer to all pupils in years 8 to 13

All encounters should have prior preparation and post-evaluation content built in - this should focus on making these encounters meaningful and will involve reflection on what the students got out of it.

Schools must offer:

- 2 encounters for pupils during the 'first key phase' (year 8 or 9) that are mandatory for all pupils to attend
    - All pupils must attend
    - Encounters can take place any time during year 8, and between 1 September and 28 February during year 9
- 2 encounters for pupils during the 'second key phase' (year 10 or 11) that are mandatory for all pupils to attend
    - All pupils must attend
    - Encounters can take place any time during year 10, and between 1 September and 28 February during year 11
- 2 encounters for pupils during the 'third key phase' (year 12 or 13) that are mandatory for the academy to offer on but optional for pupils to attend
    - Pupils can choose to attend
    - Encounters can take place any time during year 12, and between 1 September and 28 February during year 13

These encounters must happen for a reasonable period of time during the standard academy day. Schools can continue to provide complementary experiences, but encounters outside of school hours won't count towards these requirements.

Schools must ask each provider to provide the following information as a minimum:

- Information about the provider and the approved qualifications or apprenticeships they offer
- Information about what careers those qualifications and apprenticeships can lead to
- What learning or training with the provider is like
- Answers to any questions from pupils

At Space Studio West London these encounters happen through a number of different methods:

- Year 10 will have at least one whole year group encounter which will involve them being off timetable for the day and a programme being delivered from an external partner.

- Workshops - A number of workshops will take place for a selected group of students. There are many of these throughout the year for different year groups, they will typically involve 25-50 students. Selection is dependent on the nature of the workshop and linked to career aspirations where applicable, others are used as a reward for behaviour and effort.

- Partnership programmes - We have a number of key partners that deliver a yearly programme to schools, this will often include a combination of workshops, site visits and work experience opportunities.

- Apprenticeship Support - We offer support to students in Year 11 who would like to gain an apprenticeship.

- Guest Speakers - It is typical for us to have a number of guest speakers throughout the year, they will often speak to the audience for 20-30 minutes and then have an open Q&A session afterwards.

- Work Experience - Students are able to self-find a placement. The school will then complete the necessary paperwork for the placement to proceed.

- Virtual workshops and work experience - we offer a range of these throughout the year.

2.2 Meaningful provider encounters

Space Studio West London is committed to providing meaningful encounters to all pupils.

One encounter is defined as one meeting/session between pupils and one provider.

Meaningful live online engagement is also an option at our academy.

3. Student entitlement

All students in years 10 to 13 at SSWL are entitled to:

- Find out about technical education qualifications and apprenticeship opportunities as part of our 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 e.g. through activities and events such as options events, assemblies and taster events
- Understand how to make applications for the full range of academic and technical courses

4. Management of provider access requests

4.1 Procedure

A provider wishing to request access should contact Steph Lee, Careers Lead.

Telephone: 0203 6968140

Email: Slee@spacestudiowestlondon.org

4.2 Opportunities for access

A number of events, integrated into our careers programme, will offer providers an opportunity to come into academy to speak to students and/or their parents/carers:

	AUTUMN TERM	SPRING TERM	SUMMER TERM
YEAR 10	Speed Networking - SPARK Virgin Atlantic Assembly and tutor group opportunities - employability skills	Talent Foundry	Drop in session with Careers advisor
YEAR 11	Careers day - employability skills Careers Fair - options available at Post 16 Post-16 provider open evenings Post-16 apprenticeships assembly Meetings with careers adviser Post-16 applications Guest speakers - British Airways, BP, Army Outreach	Careers day - employability skills Post-16 interviews Apprenticeships – support with applications Mock interviews with industry colleagues	**No encounters – encounters must have taken place by 28 February** Confirmation of post-16 education and training destinations for all pupils

	AUTUMN TERM	SPRING TERM	SUMMER TERM
YEAR 12	Speed Networking - SPARK Higher education (HE) fair Post-18 assembly - apprenticeships AED - Work with an external client	Small group sessions: future education, training and employment options Meetings with careers adviser	Technical/vocational tasters at local college/s, training providers
YEAR 13	Post-18 assembly – with higher and degree apprenticeship providers Workshops – HE and higher apprenticeship applications	Meetings with careers adviser Assembly and small group opportunities - employability skills	**No encounters – encounters must have taken place by 28 February** Confirmation of post-18 education and training destinations for all pupils

Please speak to our Careers Lead, Steph Lee, to identify the most suitable opportunity for you.

These events will run in line with any measures related to public health incidents, including COVID-19.

4.3 Granting and refusing access

- Access is generally granted to external providers
- We encourage colleges, studio schools, apprenticeship providers, individual companies and universities to come and speak to all year groups, depending on their target audience
- Access is denied at times when we have PPEs or mocks
- Access is denied if we are unsure of the provider or there is another matter of disrepute in regards to the provider
- Access to Year 11 will be denied if it is too close to summer exams

4.4 Safeguarding

Our Safeguarding and Child Protection policy outlines the academy's procedure for checking the identity and suitability of visitors.

Education and training providers will be expected to adhere to this policy.

4.5 Premises and facilities

Our school is able to provide various facilities for their visits with us. Please see below what we can offer in terms of our premises and facilities.

- Providers can use classrooms or flexible learning spaces for workshops.
- Rooms that are required are booked out for the event. This may be done in conversation with a classroom teacher, if we are using communal space, this will be booked out through reception.
- We have a room for larger group workshops and guest speakers.
- Access to the fields and open space can be given if required.
- We have access to chrome books if the encounter requires students to work online - these will need to be booked in advance so please inform us asap if these are required.
- Electronic display boards are available in all rooms.
- For all computer equipment and technical support the IT department will support in setting up and throughout the event.

- Providers are able to leave prospectuses and other material, this may include posters or leaflets with information about open days
- When required, we will follow advice from the Trust or Public Health England. Any measures that are needed will be implemented.

5. Previous providers

In previous terms/years we have invited the following providers from the local area to speak to our pupils:

- SPARK
- Talent Foundry
- Army Outreach
- BP
- British Airways
- Virgin Atlantic
- RAF
- CISCO
- S4S Next Generation
- Dell
- Young Professionals
- Royal Holloway University London
- Kingston University
- SEGRO
- SZ Associates
- City of London Police
- Hitachi Capital

6. Pupil destinations

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

- This included colleges, 6th forms, apprenticeships and employment with a number of companies.

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

- University, apprenticeships and employment with companies.

7. Complaints

Any complaints related to provider access can be raised following the Academy's Complaints Policy (available on the Academy's website or by request sent to abarringer@rivers-aspirations.org or directly with The Careers & Enterprise Company via provideraccess@careersandenterprise.co.uk

8. Links to other policies:

- Safeguarding/child protection policy
- Complaints policy
- This policy supports and is underpinned by key school policies including those for Careers, Equality and Diversity, and SEND.

9. Monitoring arrangements

The academy's arrangements for managing the access of education and training providers to students are monitored by Steph Lee, Careers lead. This policy will be reviewed by Sarah Johnson-Scott, Principal annually. At every review, the policy will be approved by in accordance with procedures determined by the Regional Board.