The Bridge Trust
Keystone

Provider Access Statement

Pride
Passion
Partnership
Professionalism
Positivity

Introduction

At Keystone, we aim to provide pupils with meaningful, accessible opportunities to explore future education, training and employment pathways. Provider encounters are adapted to pupils' communication, sensory and learning needs and form part of our wider careers and Preparation for Adulthood offer.

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 provide opportunities for a range of education and training providers to access pupils in Years 8 to 13 for the purpose of informing them about approved technical education qualifications and apprenticeships. This duty applies to the year groups a school provides. Keystone currently provides secondary education through Year 11, so this statement sets out our arrangements for pupils in Years 8 to 11.

Schools must provide the required encounters with technical education or training providers across the relevant year groups. At Keystone, we plan these encounters for pupils in Years 8 to 11 in line with the statutory requirements and individual pupils' needs.

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 8 to 11 at Keystone are entitled to:

- Find out about further education training, 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,
- Understand how to make applications for the full range of academic and technical courses
- Receive the statutory provider encounters applicable to the year groups provided by Keystone: at least 2 encounters during Years 8-9 and at least 2 further encounters during Years 10-11
- These encounters must happen for a reasonable period of time during the standard school day.

These four encounters form the part of the wider statutory entitlement to six provider encounters across Years 8-13 that applies to pupils while they are educated at Keystone, which currently provides education through Year 11.

Access to providers is available and promoted to allow all pupils to access information about other providers of further education and apprenticeships. We are committed to encouraging all pupils to make decisions about their future based on impartial information.

Pupils in year 8 and 9

All pupils in these year groups are offered:

2 encounters with education and training providers

- All pupils must attend
- Encounters can take place any time during year 8, and between 1 September and 28 February during year 9

Pupils in year 10 and 11

All pupils in these year groups are offered, as a minimum:

2 encounters with education and training providers

- All pupils must attend
- Encounters can take place any time during year 10, and between 1 September and 28 February during year 11

Our school is committed to providing meaningful encounters for all pupils, with reasonable adjustments made so that pupils with SEND can participate and engage effectively.

A meaningful encounter:

- Is where the pupil can explore what it is like to learn, develop and succeed in that environment
- Involves meeting both staff and learners/trainees
- Has a clear purpose
- Is underpinned by learning outcomes that are appropriate to the needs of the pupil

- Involves a 2-way interaction between the pupil and the provider
- Includes information about the provider, such as their recruitment and selection processes, the qualifications that provider offers and the careers these could lead to
- Describes what learning or training with the provider is like
- Is followed by opportunities for the pupil to reflect on the insights, knowledge or skills gained through the encounter

Management of provider access

A provider wishing to request access should contact Elliot Blackmore (Headteacher).

Telephone: (0)20 7619 1000 (Select Option 3)

Email: Elliot.blackmore@thebridgetrust.academy

As a school we ask each provider to provide the following information for our pupils:

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

There are a number of events, integrated into our careers programme, that offer providers an opportunity to come into school to speak to pupils and/or their parents/carers.

Please contact the Headteacher / Careers Lead to identify the most suitable opportunity for your organisation to work with pupils.

Following the June 2026 Gatsby evaluation, Keystone is strengthening Benchmark 7 by broadening pupils' encounters with the full range of post-16 pathways, including further education, specialist and mainstream provision, independent training providers, apprenticeships and supported internships.

Examples of provider access opportunities are shown in the table below.

The precise format and timing of encounters may be adapted to pupils' needs, curriculum priorities and provider availability.

Examples of planned opportunities include:

	AUTUMN TERM	SPRING TERM	SUMMER TERM
YEAR 8	Event for university technical colleges (UTCs)	Employer event for pupils and parents/carers – market stall event giving overview of local, regional and national opportunities and skills requirements	Careers workshop Technical/vocational tasters at local college/s, training providers
YEAR 9	Assembly and tutor group opportunities – employability skills Meeting with careers adviser	Key Stage 4 options event	**No encounters – encounters must have taken place by 28 February**
YEAR 10	Post-16 technical education options assembly with a general further education college Life skills – work experience preparation sessions Assembly and tutor group opportunities – employability skills	Networking event with providers and employers Technical/vocational tasters at local college/s, training providers	Work experience preparation sessions Work experience Technical/vocational tasters at local college/s, training providers
YEAR 11	Post-16 provider open evenings Post-16 apprenticeships assembly Meetings with careers adviser Post-16 applications	Post-16 interviews Apprenticeships – support with applications	**No encounters – encounters must have taken place by 28 February** Confirmation of post-16 education and training destinations for all pupils

We will consider requests for live online encounters where these are appropriate and accessible for pupils. Technology and safeguarding checks will be completed in advance.

Each access request will be considered on a case-by-case basis. We will grant access requests where there is opportunity for a positive contribution to our careers programme.

We will provide an appropriate teaching or meeting space and, where possible, the equipment reasonably required for a provider visit. Adjustments will be made to support pupils' communication, sensory and accessibility needs.

Providers may leave prospectuses or relevant course literature with the Headteacher / Careers Lead for pupils and families. Providers will be met and supported by a member of school staff during their visit.

Working with Parents and Carers

We aim to involve parents and carers in careers and transition planning and welcome their participation in appropriate provider encounters. Information about upcoming opportunities is shared through the school's usual communication channels, including Seesaw.

We also welcome feedback from parents and carers to help improve our offer of encounters with providers.

Pupil destinations

The school tracks pupils' intended and confirmed Year 11 destinations as part of transition planning and uses this information to evaluate the impact of the careers programme.

Destination information is reviewed annually and can be made available as appropriate, taking account of cohort size and pupil confidentiality.

Complaints

Any complaints related to provider access can be raised following the school complaints procedure.

Approval and review

The school's arrangements for managing access by education and training providers are monitored by Elliot Blackmore, Headteacher / Careers Lead.

This statement will be reviewed annually as part of the school's careers and governance cycle.

Signed: Stephanie Smith	Signed: Elliot Blackmore
Chair of Governors	Head teacher