



Oaklands School

“The best for all, the best from all”

Provider Access Policy

Date reviewed:	Review Cycle	Policy Review Date:
09 th Dec 2025	Annually	Dec 2026

Oaklands School: Provider Access Policy Statement

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

Ownership: Oaklands School, Cheshire

Date updated: December 2025

Introduction

This policy sets out Oaklands School’s arrangements for managing the access of education and training providers to pupils for the purpose of giving information about their courses, apprenticeships and technical education pathways.

It complies with:

- **Section 42B of the Education Act 1997**
- **DfE Careers Guidance and Access for Education and Training Providers (Statutory Guidance 2023)**
- **Provider Access Legislation (PAL) – January 2023 update**
- The “Baker Clause” requirements

Rationale

High-quality careers education, information, advice and guidance (CEIAG) is essential for supporting young people to make informed, ambitious and realistic decisions about their future pathways. Effective careers guidance helps students develop a clear understanding of the world of work, including the qualifications, skills and experiences required to access meaningful employment.

It supports students in developing the confidence, independence and career-management skills they need to progress into further learning, training, apprenticeships or employment. A strong careers programme improves life chances, raises aspirations, and contributes to a productive and skilled local and national economy.

Commitment

Oaklands School is committed to ensuring that all students receive impartial, high-quality information about the full range of post-16 education and training routes, including technical education, supported internships, vocational qualifications, further education and apprenticeships.

In line with statutory duties and the Provider Access Legislation (PAL, January 2023), the school will provide opportunities for a wide range of external providers to access students and share information about approved technical qualifications and apprenticeship opportunities.

Oaklands School takes its responsibility seriously to help students make well-informed choices that lead to positive outcomes. The school acts impartially and does not promote one pathway

over another. All students will be supported to explore the complete range of options available to them, including academic, vocational and technical routes.

Oaklands School ensures compliance with:

- The DfE's statutory guidance on careers education
- The "Baker Clause" duty to enable access for alternative providers
- The strengthened PAL requirement for multiple provider encounters

Pupil Entitlement

All pupils in **Years 8–11** at Oaklands School are entitled to:

- Information about **technical education qualifications**, including supported internships, vocational courses and apprenticeships
- A clear understanding of the **full range of post-16 routes**
- To hear from a variety of **further education, apprenticeship and training providers** at appropriate points throughout their school journey
- Support to understand **how to apply** for academic, vocational or technical courses
- Impartial careers guidance to help them make informed decisions

Statutory Provider Encounters (PAL 2023 Requirement)

Oaklands School guarantees the following minimum encounters:

Years 8 & 9

- At least **two meaningful encounters** with providers of technical education and apprenticeships.

Year 10

- At least **one encounter** with FE, technical education or apprenticeship providers.

Year 11

- At least **one further encounter** to ensure students understand transition routes.

These encounters are in addition to employer encounters forming part of the wider careers programme.

Management of Provider Access Requests

Procedure

Providers wishing to request access should contact:

Mr Andrew Robinson – Careers Leader

Telephone: 01606 551048

Email: a.robinson@oaklandsschool.org

Requests will be considered in line with this policy and the school's safeguarding procedures. Oaklands will aim to offer a suitable date within six school weeks, where possible.

Opportunities for Access

A range of events throughout the year provide opportunities for providers to speak to pupils and/or their parents/carers. These may include:

- Careers lessons
- Assemblies and year-group presentations
- Careers fairs and employer encounters
- Options events
- Transition and progression events
- Premises and Facilities

Oaklands School will make appropriate spaces available for provider interactions, depending on the nature of the visit. These may include:

- The main hall
- Classrooms
- Meeting rooms

The school will also provide audio-visual and specialist equipment where required, agreed in advance.

Providers may supply prospectuses, digital materials or course literature. These will be:

- Displayed in the Careers Area
- Shared with pupils during careers lessons
- Available to parents/carers on request

Safeguarding

All providers visiting the school must adhere to Oaklands School's safeguarding policies. A member of staff will be present throughout all interactions between students and external visitors.

Monitoring Review and Evaluation

The Policy is monitored and evaluated annually via the Governors.

Policy Coordinator: Andrew Robinson

Policy Reviewed: December 2025