



October 2025
Review October 2026

Westhoughton High School Provider Access Policy Statement

Under Section 42A of the Education Act 1997, we have a duty to provide students in years 7-13 with access to providers of post-14, post-16 and post-18 education and training. This policy statement sets out how we manage access requests from these providers.

What are students entitled to?

Students must be allowed to:

- Learn more about technical education qualifications and apprenticeship opportunities, as part of a careers programme which informs students of the full range of education and training options available to them at each transition point.
- Hear from a range of local providers about the opportunities on offer, for example, technical education and apprenticeships – this can be achieved through careers assemblies, Careers Fairs and events such as our annual post 16 progression evening open to year 9-11 students and parents
- Understand how to apply to the full range of academic and technical courses available to them through appropriate application systems

Who handles our access requests?

Any provider wishing to request access should contact our Assistant Headteacher Mr C Dignam on 01942 814122 or via email on: WHSoffice@westhoughton-high.org . We actively welcome providers who can enhance the delivery of the school curriculum and can help the school work towards meeting Gatsby standards.

What opportunities are provided to allow access to students?

Throughout the school year we include in our careers programme a number of opportunities that allow both students and / or parents to access providers of post 14, post 16, post 18 and training providers. We also provide access to providers of technical awards and apprenticeships. This access happens at various points throughout the year and examples of these activities are:

- Annual Careers Fair
- Visits to HE and apprenticeship Fairs
- Oxbridge and Cambridge Events
- Post 16 Progression Events
- Post 16 Assemblies and Drop in session
- Mock Interview Scheme
- Your Futures Event
- Post 16 Taster Days

Who should providers contact to discuss events and options?

Providers can speak to our careers lead Mr C Dignam to discuss possible attendance at relevant events. We encourage providers to read about our CEIAG provision in school outlined comprehensively on the school website. It is updated annually after the publication of current destination data.

What are the rules for granting and refusing access requests?

We will grant access requests that meet the following criteria:

- That a provider can actively contribute to the school working towards meeting Gatsby Benchmarks
- That a provider is a potential realistic destination post 16 for our students
- That a provider follows school safeguarding policies
- That a Provider supplies current, updated and accurate careers information that enables our students to be more informed to make accurate and realistic choices in the future

We will refuse any access request:

- That a provider is not a realistic destination post 16 for our students
- That a provider provides biased and misleading careers information which may prejudice a student being able to make informed and realistic career decisions post 16
- That a provider discriminates against students in terms of race, gender and faith
- That a provider does not follow school safeguarding policies or is unwilling to follow them
- That a provider uses student data inappropriately and makes financial gain from any encounter with students
- That a provider provides misleading information about competitors and alternative pathways

What can providers expect once a request has been accepted?

Once we have approved a provider, we will work with them to identify the best method for providing access to our students.

We will make the appropriate rooms available to host discussions between providers and students. We will also make presentation equipment, such as projectors and televisions, available to providers.

Arrangements will be discussed in advance between our careers leader and a nominated member of the provider's team.

Can providers leave prospectuses for students to read?

Providers are welcome to leave a copy of their prospectus and other relevant course literature with the school reception.