



RIDGEWOOD
HIGH SCHOOL

Provider Access Statement

This statement will be reviewed annually

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Version	Date	Amendments
V0	01/02/2022	Bi-annual review and update. First issue in new policy template.
V1	04/10/2022	Review annually in line with Stour Vale Academy Trust.
V1.1	19/06/2023	To include The Department of Education, July 2021: “Baker Clause” and the Provider Access Legislation, January 2023
V1.1	01/09/2023	Annual review.

1. 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.

2. Commitment

Ridgewood High 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. Ridgewood High 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.

Ridgewood High 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).

3. Aims

Ridgewood High 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).

4. 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 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](#).

This policy shows how our school complies with these requirements.

5. Student entitlement

Ridgewood High 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 provide at least six encounters with providers of approved technical education qualifications or apprenticeships for all their students during school years 8-13. This is an important element

of improving knowledge of technical pathways. The aim is that all pathways are promoted equally.

The first four encounters are mandatory for all registered pupils (not just selected groups) to attend:

- two in school years 8 or 9
- two in school years 10 or 11 (held between 1 September and 28 February if for pupils in year 9 or year 11)

During a student's time at Ridgewood High School this will be done in assemblies in National Apprenticeship Week and National Careers Week, in addition to providers attending careers events at school or at each Trust school, and student visits to agreed providers.

Schools with a Sixth Form will also be required to put on two encounters for pupils in school years 12 or 13 (held between 1 September and 28 February for pupils in year 13) that are mandatory for the school to put on but optional for pupils to attend.

All students in years 8 to 11 at Ridgewood High School 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
- Understand how to make applications for the full range of academic and technical courses

6. Development

This policy has been developed and is reviewed annually by the Careers Leader and Line Manager (Miss Haines - Leader for Careers and PSHCE and Miss Baldry - Assistant Headteacher, overviewed by Mrs Cope – Headteacher) and approved by school governors, based on current good practice guidelines by the Department for Education.

7. Links with other policies

This policy supports and is underpinned by key school policies including those for Careers, Child Protection, Equality and Diversity, Safeguarding, and SEND.

8. 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. The Ridgewood High School is committed to encouraging all students to make decisions about their future based on impartial information.

9. Management of provider access requests

9.1 Requests for access

A provider wishing to request access should contact Miss Haines, Careers Leader. Miss Haines may be contacted by telephone, 01384 818445 or email, thaines@ridgewood.dudley.sch.uk.

9.2 Grounds for requesting access

Access will be given for providers to attend during school assemblies, timetabled Careers or Life Lessons, and Careers or Raising Aspirations events that Ridgewood High School is arranging. Students may also travel to visit another provider as part of the trip to be organised in partnership with Ridgewood High School, and Stour Vale Academy Trust.

A number of events, integrated into the school careers programme, will offer providers an opportunity to come into school to speak to pupils and/or their parents/carers. Please see our Careers Programme to find more about opportunities offered to our young people and speak to our Careers Leader to identify the most suitable opportunity for you.

9.2 Safeguarding

Our Safeguarding Policy outlines the school's procedure for checking the identity and suitability of visitors. Official photo identification should always be provided on arrival at the school.

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

Appropriate safeguarding checks will be carried out. Providers will be met and supervised by a member of the Careers Team who will facilitate.

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

Ridgewood High School will provide an appropriate room or space to be agreed. Computer rooms can also be arranged. The Careers Leader will organise this, working closely with the provider to ensure the facilities are appropriate to the audience.

- Assembly hall contains computer and projector
- Double size classroom can accommodate up to 2 groups with A-V provision
- Computer classroom contains up to 30 PCs
- Classrooms contain a computer and projector

Facilities should be organised and agreed at an early stage. Prospectuses and other material for students to read can be left with the Library Assistant to add to our career's library.

9.4 Live and virtual encounters

Ridgewood High 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.

9.5 Parents and Carers

Parental involvement is encouraged, and parents/carers may be invited to attend the events to meet the providers.

9.6 Management

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

10. Complaints

Any complaints about this policy should be raised to Mrs Baldry, email: hbaldry@ridgewood.dudley.sch.uk. Where necessary, Mrs Baldry will escalate the complaint to Mrs Cope, Headteacher of Ridgewood High School.

11. Monitoring arrangements

The school's arrangements for managing the access of education and training providers to students is monitored by the Careers Leader. The Policy is monitored and evaluated annually via the Senior Leadership Team and school governors.

Policy Coordinator: Careers and PSHCE Leader - Miss Haines.

Appendix One

Providers who have been invited into Ridgewood High School to date include:

- ACM Music College and Academy
- Accord Group
- Birmingham City University
- Birmingham Electrical Training Group
- BOA- Birmingham Ormiston Academy
- Central St. Michaels Sixth Form
- City of Wolverhampton College
- College Prospects of America (UK)
- Crackerjack Training
- Dudley College
- Connexions Dudley
- Dudley Sixth Form
- West Midlands Fire Service
- Francesco Hair Group, Birmingham
- Halesowen College
- Haybridge High School and Sixth Form
- Juniper Training
- Kidderminster College
- King Edward VI College
- NHS - The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust
- Nova Training
- Education for Dental
- DEFRA- Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
- Old Swinford Hospital School and Sixth Form
- Project ASK
- Promoting Medicine
- Promoting Paediatrics
- Reflections Training Academy
- Sandwell College
- Stourbridge Rugby Club
- West Midlands Police Service
- Windsor High School and Sixth Form
- Worcester Sixth Form College
- Young Waiters Academy

Appendix Two

Destinations of previous pupils from Ridgewood High School include:

- BOA- Birmingham Ormiston Academy
- City of Wolverhampton College
- Dudley College
- Dudley Sixth Form
- Halesowen College
- Haybridge High School and Sixth Form
- Juniper Training
- Kidderminster College
- King Edward VI College
- Nova Training
- Old Swinford Hospital School and Sixth Form
- Sandwell College
- Windsor High School and Sixth Form
- Worcester Sixth Form College