Provider Access Policy

ACORN EDUCATION AND CARE

The Greater Horseshoe School

Policy Number:	SU39	Originator:	Louise Davey
Issue Number:	3	Authoriser:	Oli Masters
Issue Date:	28.10.26	Service Type:	Education
Next Review Due:	28.10.27	Policy Location:	Policy File

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 on offer 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.

Commitment

The Greater Horseshoe School is committed to providing a careers programme that equips all students to make informed decisions about their future pathways.

The school will:

- Provide access to a wide range of education and training providers.
- Promote technical, vocational and academic routes equally.
- Support students to understand the full range of progression opportunities available.
- Deliver impartial careers education, information, advice and guidance (CEIAG).
- Ensure students encounter employers, education providers and apprenticeship organisations.
- Meet all statutory Provider Access Legislation requirements.

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The 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.
The school endeavors 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 for Education, July 2021: “Baker Clause”: supporting students to understand the full range of education and training options, and the Provider Access Legislation, January 2023).

Aims
The 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).

Student Entitlement
The school fully supports the statutory requirement for all students to have direct access to other providers of further education training, technical training and apprenticeships.
We ensure that all students are entitled to:

- Learn about technical education qualifications and apprenticeship opportunities as part of the school's careers programme.
- Hear from local and national providers about the opportunities available.
- Understand routes into employment, further education, higher education and training.
- Access impartial careers guidance.
- Participate in provider encounters designed to support informed career decision-making.
- Receive information about local labour market opportunities.

Provider Access Legislation Requirements
The school will ensure that all students receive meaningful encounters with approved providers of technical education qualifications and apprenticeships.
In accordance with current legislation, students will receive a minimum of six encounters during secondary education:
Meaningful encounters may take place through:

- Assemblies
- Careers fairs
- Workshops

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- Employability events
- Curriculum lessons
- Virtual encounters
- Small group sessions
- Work experience preparation programmes
- Apprenticeship presentations
- College and training provider events

Students will be given opportunities to ask questions and engage directly with providers.

Development

This policy has been developed and is reviewed annually by the Named Careers Lead (Amanda Cox) and Head Teacher (Peta Hewitt) based on current good practice guidelines by the Department for Education.

Links with other policies

It supports and is underpinned by key school policies including those for Careers, Work Experience, Child Protection, Equality and Diversity, and SEND.

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 school is committed to encouraging all students to make decisions about their future based on impartial information.

Requests for access

Requests for access should be directed to Amanda Cox, Named Careers Lead who may be contacted by email, amanda.cox@enhancedlearningservices.co.uk.

Grounds for granting requests for access.

Access will be given for providers to attend during school assemblies, timetabled futures lessons, and Careers or Raising Aspirations events that the school is arranging. Students may also travel to visit another provider as part of the trip to be organised in partnership with the school.

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

The school will provide an appropriate room or assembly hall to be agreed. Computer rooms can also be arranged. The Futures team will organise this, working closely with the provider to ensure the facilities are appropriate to the audience. Appropriate safeguarding checks will be carried out. Providers will be met and supervised by a member of the Futures Team who will facilitate.

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Live/Virtual encounters
The 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.

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

Management
The Careers Leader coordinates all provider requests and is responsible to their senior management line manager.

Monitoring review and evaluation
The Policy is monitored and evaluated annually via the schools' careers lead.

Policy Coordinator: Louise Davey
Policy Reviewed: October 2026

Appendix
Providers who have been invited into the school to date include:
South Devon College
Exeter College
Bicton College
Duchy College
Lifeworks
ROC

Destinations of previous pupils include:
South Devon College
Exeter College
Bicton College
Breakthrough

Equality Impact Statement
All relevant persons are required to comply with this policy and must demonstrate sensitivity and competence in relation to diversity in race, faith, age, gender, disability and sexual orientation. If you, or any other groups, believe you are disadvantaged by this policy please contact the Regional Director for Acorn Education and Care. Outcomes First Group will then actively respond to the enquiry.

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This policy is written by Amanda Cox Date: 28th October 2026

Signed: A.S.Cox

The policy is quality assured by Headteacher: Date: 28.10.26

Signed: PHewitt