



Dacorum Education  
Support Centre

# Provider Access Policy Statement

DESC values the mental health and wellbeing of every member of its community.

Our policies reflect the core values of respect and support for each other in every aspect of life. Our aim is that all in our community, through working together, to feel safe and secure in an environment, which enables and equips every individual to thrive and be respectful of each other's strengths and differences.

April 2023

## **Introduction**

This policy statement sets out the DESC's arrangements for managing the access of providers to learners at the Centre for the purpose of giving them information about the providers' education or training offer.

This complies with DESC's legal obligations under Section 42B of the Education Act 1997.

## **Learner Entitlement**

All learners in Years 8-11 are entitled:

- To find out about technical education qualifications and apprenticeships opportunities, as part of a careers programme which provides information on the full range of education and training options available at each transition point;
- To hear from a range of local providers about the opportunities they offer, including technical education and apprenticeships – through options events, assemblies and group discussions and taster events;
- To understand how to make applications for the full range of academic and technical courses.

For learners of compulsory school age these encounters are mandatory and there will be a minimum of two encounters for learners during the 'first key phase' (Year 8 to 9) and two encounters for learners during the 'second key phase' (Year 10 to 11).

These provider encounters will be scheduled during the main operational hours and the provider will be given a reasonable amount of time to, as a minimum:

- Share information about both the provider and the approved technical education qualification and apprenticeships that the provider offers
- Explain what career routes those options could lead to
- Provide insights into what it might be like to learn or train with that provider (including the opportunity to meet staff and learners from the provider)
- Answer questions from learners

## **Meaningful provider encounters**

One encounter is defined as one meeting/session between learners and one provider. We are committed to providing meaningful encounters to all learners. Meaningful online engagement is also an option, and we are open to providers that are able to provide live online engagement with our learners.

## Previous providers

In previous terms/years we have invited the following providers from the local area to speak to our learners:

### 2022-3

Employability workshops delivered by the Job Centre Plus team (3 sessions)

Get Work Ready Days for both KS3 and KS4 (4 sessions/year)

NHS careers talks

West Herts College visits

Oaklands College visits

ASK Apprenticeships – delivered by the ASK team (6 sessions)

Services for Young People (SfYP) Personal Advisor – regular 1:1 session with all learners

Careers talk from Police and Fire Brigade

## Management of provider access requests procedure

A provider wishing to request access should contact:

Mr Dustin King - Assistant Headteacher / Careers Leader

Telephone: 01442 247476

Email: [dking@desc.herts.sch.uk](mailto:dking@desc.herts.sch.uk)

## Opportunities for access

DESC offers the four provider encounters required by law and a number of additional events, integrated into the Centre's careers programme. We will offer providers an opportunity to come into Centre to speak to learners or their parents or carers. Please speak to our Careers Leader to identify the most suitable opportunity for you.

KS3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Get Work Ready Days (Autumn and Spring terms)</li><li>• PSHE / Social Development (throughout the school year)</li><li>• 1:1 session from Services for Young People (SfYP)</li><li>• KS4 Options taster sessions for Year 9 learners (July)</li><li>• KS4 Options session Assemblies for Year 9 (June)</li><li>• Guest speakers run by department(s)</li><li>• Post 16 technical education options/pathways assembly for Year 9 (June)</li><li>• Weekly mentoring sessions</li></ul>
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KS4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Get Work Ready Days (Autumn and Spring terms)</li> <li>• 1:1 session with SfYP - Post-16 interviews/consultations for Year 10/11 learners (throughout the school year)</li> <li>• Post 16 provider open evenings: Opportunities to visit sixth form colleges, schools and other training providers regarding A level, Applied General technical and vocation and apprenticeships</li> <li>• Post 16 technical education options/pathways Year 11 Pod assembly (November/December)</li> <li>• Post 16 apprenticeships year 11 assembly Pod (November/December)</li> <li>• Apprenticeship Workshops</li> <li>• PSHE lessons</li> <li>• Careers Fair (in Centre) for Years 10-11 (February)</li> <li>• “<i>Generation Hertsmere</i>” Careers Fair (November)</li> <li>• PSHE career lessons (Autumn Term)</li> <li>• Guest speakers run by department(s)</li> <li>• Interview workshop (Communities 1<sup>st</sup>) (July)</li> <li>• Weekly mentoring sessions</li> <li>• Weekly work experience</li> </ul>
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## Premises and facilities

The Centre will make the social areas, classrooms or private meeting rooms available for discussions between the provider and learners, as appropriate to the activity. The Centre will also make available AV and other specialist equipment to support provider presentations. This will all be discussed and agreed in advance of the visit with the Careers Leader or a member of their team.

Meaningful online engagement is also an option and we are open to providers that are able to provide live online engagement with our learners.

Providers are welcome to leave a copy of their prospectus or other relevant course literature in the Centre’s social areas. These will be available to learners at lunch and break times.

## Linked documents

- CEIAG Commitment and Vision Statement

## Complaints:

Any complaints with regards to provider access can be raised following DESC’s complaints procedure or directly with The Careers & Enterprise Company via [provideraccess@careersandenterprise.co.uk](mailto:provideraccess@careersandenterprise.co.uk)