Provider access policy statement

Policy author / date:	Graham Findlay, Senior Improvement and Aspirations Lead	September 2025
Last reviewed by / date:	Graham Findlay, Senior Improvement and Aspirations Lead	September 2026
Approved by / date:	Curriculum and Standards	24 September 2026
Review period:	Annually (or earlier if new guidance or legislation and/or business need for earlier review identified)	
Next review due:	Autumn term 2027	
Version:	1.1	

Current version	Previous version	Summary of key change(s) since last version:
1.1	1.0	No amendments
1.0	N/A	Introduction of a Trust-wide policy statement

Rationale

At Gosforth Group, we put the child at the centre of everything that we do. We want children and young people to feel valued and cared for, safe and prepared academically and emotionally for adulthood. Part of our mission is to work in partnership with others to raise aspirations and broaden mindsets, maximising the opportunities of living and working in the North East.

High quality careers education and guidance in school is critical to achieving this mission. It helps to prepare students 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.

Commitment

Gosforth Junior High Academy 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. Gosforth Junior High Academy 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.

Gosforth Junior High Academy 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).

Aims

Gosforth Junior High Academy‘s 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).

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Student Entitlement

The Gosforth Group supports the statutory requirement for students to have direct access to other providers of further education training, technical training and apprenticeships. All of our schools will comply with the legal requirement to put on at least six encounters with providers of approved technical education qualifications or apprenticeships. In line with statutory guidance, our schools will offer as minimum:

- 2 encounters that are mandatory for all pupils to attend that take place any time during year 8 or between 1 September and 28 February during year 9. In Gosforth Junior High Academy, encounters will take place in Year 8.
- 2 encounters that are mandatory for all pupils to attend that take place any time during year 10 or between 1 September and 28 February during year 11
- At Gosforth Academy and Jesmond Park Academy, 2 further encounters that are mandatory for the school to put on, but optional for pupils to attend, to take place any time during year 12 or between 1 September and 28 February during year 13

This will typically be done during assemblies in National Apprenticeship Week and National Careers Week, in addition to providers attending careers events at school.

Development

This policy has been developed at Trust level and adapted for each school in the Gosforth Group. At Gosforth Junior High Academy the policy is reviewed by Niamh Reilly and the Trust's Senior Improvement and Aspirations Lead, 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, 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. Gosforth Junior High Academy 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 Niamh Reilly who may be contacted by emailing admin2@ga.newcastle.sch.uk, marked for the attention of Niamh Reilly.

Grounds for granting requests for access

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

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

Niamh Reilly will provide an appropriate room or assembly hall to be agreed. All rooms have computers, projectors and screens provided. Computer rooms can also be arranged. The Careers Leader or Careers Adviser 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 Careers Team who will facilitate.

Live/Virtual encounters

Niamh Reilly 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.

Complaints Procedure

Any complaints related to provider access can be raised with the careers leader Niamh Reilly and in line with the Trust's Complaints Policy.

Monitoring review and evaluation

The Policy is monitored and evaluated annually via the Senior Improvement and Aspirations Lead at the Trust.

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Appendix

Providers who have been invited by Niamh Reilly to date include:

- Newcastle United Foundation
- North East Careers Ambition (NECA)
- St Oswald's Hospice
- Parents / Carers for Careers Fair
- Newcastle University

Destinations of previous pupils from Gosforth Junior High Academy include:

- Gosforth Academy
- Great Park Academy

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