

Weston Secondary School's Careers Provider Access Statement 2025-2026

Prepared by	Director of Careers		
Approved by	D Butterworth	Date	September 2025
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Aspire

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Introduction

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.

Weston Secondary 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. Weston Secondary 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.

Weston Secondary 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).

As part of our commitment to provide our students with a full range of Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance (CEIAG), Weston Secondary School follow the Gatsby Benchmarks. To promote a full range of learning and training opportunities we consider and welcome requests from training and educational providers to speak and work with our students. We may also approach them to inform our careers planning and careers programme.

Every student, whatever their ambitions, should have the opportunity to explore what it is like to learn at the full range of learning providers including colleges, universities, apprenticeships and training. By hearing directly from a range of providers, every student can build up a full picture of the options available and consider how the opportunity to study in different ways, and in different environments, might suit their skills, interests and aptitudes. This will lead to better-informed choices and help to reduce the risk of young people dropping out of courses or becoming NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training).

We work in collaboration with Further and Higher Education providers, local and national employers in order to maximise the opportunities for our young people to engage with work, training and educational opportunities to expand their view of the working world.

By providing high quality careers guidance it will help:

- Young people to make informed choices about their futures, so that they can develop their interests and potential, and follow the path that is right for them to progress into work.
- Break down barriers to opportunity.
- Improve skills needed for success in work.
- Improve national productivity and grow the economy.

Aim

Weston Secondary Schools career provider access statement 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).
- Set out arrangements for managing the access of education and training providers to students for the purpose of giving them information about specific careers, training and education.

Statutory requirements

Through the Skills and Post-16 Education Act 2022, 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. All maintained schools and academies must provide four encounters with a provider of technical education or apprenticeships.

Schools must also have a 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 provider access statement shows how Weston Secondary School complies with these requirements.

Student entitlement

All students in years 7 to 11 at Weston Secondary 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.
- Have two encounters with a provider of technical education and apprenticeships during the 'first key phase' (year 8 or 9) that are mandatory for all pupils to attend.
- Have two encounters with a provider of technical education and apprenticeships during the 'second key phase' (year 10 or 11) that are mandatory for all pupils to attend.
- Schools and providers should work together, and schools must ask each provider to provide information to students that, as a minimum, includes:
 - Information about the provider and the approved technical education qualifications or apprenticeships that the provider offers.
 - Information about the careers to which those technical education qualifications or apprenticeships might lead.
 - A description of what learning or training with the provider is like.
- Responses to questions from students about the provider or approved technical education qualifications and apprenticeships.

Development

This access statement has been developed and is reviewed annually by the Director Careers Education and Headteacher based on current good practice guidelines by the Department for Education.

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

Management of Provider Access Requests

Procedure

A provider wishing to request access should contact Director Careers Education (SLT link).

Telephone: 02380447820

Email: srobinson@westonsecondary.co.uk

Opportunities for access

A number of events, integrated into our careers programme, will offer providers an opportunity to come into school to speak to students and/or their parents/carers. In addition, providers of technical education or apprenticeships can also request opportunity to speak in person with students and/or their parents/carers by contacting the Director Careers Education to identify the most suitable time and opportunity.

Granting and refusing access

Access to students will be granted during the school day and possibly after school if authorised. Access to students will not be given if:

- They are during exam periods.
- They clash with other planned school events.
- The school is unable to provide staff to support the event.
- Rooming or facilities are unavailable due to timetable clashes or other bookings.

Safeguarding

Our Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy outlines the school's procedure for checking the identity and suitability of visitors.

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

Premises and facilities

At Weston Secondary School we can provide space for workshops as well as classroom facilities, gym and a multi-purpose hall that include audio and visual devices.

Providers should advise the Director of Careers Education of their requirements at least 6 weeks in advance of an event.

Prospectuses and other materials can be left with the school to be shared and distributed accordingly.

Monitoring arrangements

Activity Provider

In the last year or two we have invited and worked with the following providers from the local area to speak and work with our students:

Barton Peveril College, BBC, British Athletics, City College, Exxon Mobile, In Focus Photography, Itchen College, Kiwi Education, Lighthouse Learning, Luke Staton Motivational Speaker, Mast Mayflower Studios, Mitsubishi, National Oceanography, Peta Training & Consultancy SETA Engineering, Solent EBP, Solent University, South Hants College Group, Southern Universities Network, Southampton City Council, Southampton University, Southampton Boat Show, Sparsholt College, Speakers for Schools, Richard Taunton's College, Teach First, The Careers & Enterprise Company, The Royal Navy, Totton College

Destination Data Class of 2024

- The class of 2024 moved to a range of providers in the local area after school:

The five most popular establishments attended by Year 11 leavers were:

Itchen Sixth Form College	35%
Barton Peveril College	17%
Southampton City College (SHCG)	12%
Richard Taunton's Sixth Form Colleges	11%
Eastleigh College (SHCG)	4%
Employment with training	3%

The class of 2024 also attended Bournemouth & Poole, Burton South Derbyshire, Fareham (SHCG) Peter Symonds, Sparsholt, St Annes, Totton, 3% of students enrolled in employment with training and 2% moved out of the area.

Management

The school's arrangements for managing the access of education and training providers to students is monitored by the Director of Careers Education.

This access statement will be reviewed annually and have the approval by the Governing Board and Headteacher.

Complaints Procedure

Any complaints about this access statement should be raised to Steve Robinson, Director of Careers Education, email: srobinson@westonsecondary.co.uk.