

The Provider Access Policy

Smith's Wood Academy

Part of Fairfax Multi-Academy Trust

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Ratified By:	SWA Governing Body
Date Ratified:	September 2025
Review Date:	September 2026

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Policy Statement on Provider Access




Smith's Wood Academy: Provider

Introduction

This policy statement sets out the school's arrangements for managing the access of providers to the school for the purpose of giving them information about the provider's education or training offer. This complies with the school's legal obligations under Section 42B of the Education Act 1997.




Pupil entitlement

All pupils in years 7-11 are entitled:

-  to find out about technical education qualifications and apprenticeships opportunities, as part of a careers program 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 pupils of compulsory school age these encounters are mandatory and there will be a minimum of two encounters for pupils during the 'first key phase' (year 7 to 9) and two encounters for pupils during the 'second key phase' (year 10 to 11).

These provider encounters will be scheduled during the main school 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 pupils from the provider)

Meaningful provider encounters

One encounter is defined as one meeting/session between pupils and one provider. We are committed to providing meaningful encounters to all pupils using the [Making it meaningful checklist](#).

Meaningful online engagement is also an option, and we are open to providers that can provide live online engagement with our pupils.

Previous providers (2024-2025)

We invited the following providers from the local area to speak to our pupils:

- EY Foundation
- Birmingham Airport
- Vinci Buildings
- Local Colleges and Sixth Forms
- Aston Villa Football Club
- Birmingham City Football Club
- NHS
- The Belfry Resort and Golf Club
- Big Solutions
- Equans
- TARMAC

Destinations of our pupils in 2024

Last year our year 11 pupils moved to range of providers in the local area after school:

Sixth Form Pathways = 23%

- John Henry Newman
- Aston Engineering Academy
- Bishop Vesey Grammar
- Coleshill School
- Central St Michaels
- WMG Engineering Academy
- Solihull Sixth Form
- Park Hall School and Sixth Form
- BOA
- Pro Direct Football
- Birmingham City Football Academy
- Tudor Grange Kingshurst

College Pathways = 73%

- Birmingham Metropolitan College (Matthew Boulton Campus)
- University College Birmingham
- Solihull College Woodlands
- Solihull College Blossomfield
- South and City College (Longbridge and Digbeth)
- Access to Creative College

Apprenticeships or employment opportunities = 2%

- TESCO
- Little Explorers Nursery
- The Royal Navy
- Little Scallywags Nursery
- Birmingham Electrical Training

NEET (referrals to SMBC) =**Management of provider access requests****Procedure**

A provider wishing to request access should contact Dee Long (Careers Leader) on d.long@smithswood.fmat.co.uk or Lisa Huckstep (Vice Principle and Strategic Lead)) l.huckstep@smithswood.fmat.co.uk

Opportunities for access

The school offers the students 10 provider encounters across their school life, required by law and several additional events integrated into the school careers program. We will offer providers an opportunity to come into school to speak to pupils or their parents or carers.

Please speak to our Careers Lead to identify the most suitable opportunity for you.