

The Provider Access Policy

Smith's Wood Academy

Part of Fairfax Multi-Academy Trust

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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)
-  answer questions from pupils.

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

Destinations for Year 11 Leavers in 2025

Sixth Forms = 22%

- Solihull Sixth Form (SSFC)
- The Coleshill School
- BOA
- Park Hall School and Sixth Form
- University College Birmingham Sixth Form
- Aston Engineering Academy
- Bishop Vesey Grammar School

Football Education Academies = 2%

- Birmingham City Football Club
- Tamworth Football Club

Colleges = 66%

- Solihull College (both sites)
- University College Birmingham
- Stratford Upon Avon College
- Birmingham Metropolitan College (all sites)
- South and City College (all sites)
- South Staffordshire College (Lichfield campus)
- Sandwell College

Apprenticeships and Employment with Training = 10%

- Solihull Day Care
- Seesaws Nursery
- The Dental Centre
- UK Fire Systems
- Iceland
- Tesco
- Sports Direct
- MW Impact

Training Academy = 1%

- Barnardo's

NEET (referrals to SMBC) = 3.2%

Management of provider access requests

Procedure

A provider wishing to request access should contact Lisa Huckstep (Assistant Principal and Strategic Lead for Careers)) 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.