

Meeting	Full Corporation
Date of Meeting	
Title of Report	Provider Access Legislation
Author(s)	Jill Whitham

Purpose of Paper	For Information	
	For Comment/Discussion	
	For Approval by Full Corporation	YES

Executive Summary: *(Summarise in bullet points the key issues – do not repeat what is written in the main body of the paper). This section should be clear and concise.*

The Sixth Form, Bolton 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)

Further guidance regarding this requirement was set out in the Skills and Post-16 Education Act making it a legal requirement for schools to ensure all year 8- 13 pupils have at least six opportunities to meet providers of approved technical education qualifications or apprenticeships (department for education January 2023)

There is now more clarity on expectations in terms of what we should offer at sixth form level and I have added the following detail to the Provider Access Legislation

- *‘...the governing body must make sure that learners [are offered] 2 encounters...with a provider of technical education or apprenticeships 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.’*

(‘Careers Guidance and Access for Education and Training Providers - Department for Education, June 2026)

Associated Key Risks (as identified in the College's Risk Register) <i>If a new risk is identified, confirm that this risk has been added to the risk register.</i>	Risk No.	Risk

Link to Strategic Development Plan	Objective No(s).	
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The Sixth Form Bolton: Provider Access Policy Statement

Date updated: June 2026

Rationale

High quality careers education and guidance 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.

With an increasing emphasis on apprenticeships as a viable option for students and an increase in the availability of Higher Technical Qualifications, it is important that all young people have a full understanding of all the options available to them post-18, at technical, vocational and university-level.

Commitment

The Sixth Form, Bolton 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. The Sixth Form, Bolton 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, vocational or technical.

The Sixth Form, Bolton 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)

Further guidance regarding this requirement was set out in the Skills and Post-16 Education Act making it a legal requirement for schools to ensure all year 8- 13 pupils have at least six opportunities to meet providers of approved technical education qualifications or apprenticeships (department for education January 2023)

What this looks like within a Sixth-form institution was set out in 'Careers Guidance and Access for Education and Training Providers,' (Department for Education, June 2026):

- *'...the governing body must make sure that learners [are offered] 2 encounters...with a provider of technical education or apprenticeships 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.'

Aims

The Sixth Form, Bolton 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 college 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).

Student Entitlement

The Sixth Form, Bolton fully supports the statutory requirement for students to have direct access to providers of further and higher education, training, technical training and apprenticeships. The sixth form will comply with the new legal requirement to provide students with at least two opportunities for encounters with providers of technical qualifications or apprenticeships. This will be done throughout the academic year via: The Annual careers day; The Apprenticeship Academy; B Skilled Programme and through the many other careers-related events and trips which we offer throughout the academic year.

Development

This policy has been developed and is reviewed annually by the Careers Leader, (Jill Whitham) and Assistant Principal, (Mark Goodwin) based on current good practice guidelines by the Department for Education.

Links with other policies

It supports and is underpinned by key sixth form policies including those for Careers, Safeguarding, 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 higher education and apprenticeships. The Sixth Form, Bolton 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 Jill Whitham, Head of Careers and Employability. Jill Whitham may be contacted by telephone or email, jwhitham@bolton-sfc.ac.uk , Tel: 01204 846215

Grounds for granting requests for access

Access will be given for providers to attend career insight talks, large scale career events, parent information evenings, live project briefs, mock interviews and activities in relation to the B Skilled Programme and any other careers or raising aspirations events that The Sixth Form, Bolton is planning to deliver. Students may also travel to visit another provider as part of the trip to be organised in partnership with The Sixth Form, Bolton.

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

The Sixth Form, Bolton 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. A member of the B6 Careers Team 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

The Sixth Form, Bolton 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 his/her senior management line manager.

Complaints Procedure

Any complaints in relation to this policy should be raised to Mark Goodwin, Assistant Principal email: mgoodwin@bolton-sfc.ac.uk.

Mark Goodwin will then raise the complaint to Stuart Merrills, Principal of The Sixth Form, Bolton.

Monitoring review and evaluation

The Policy is monitored and evaluated annually via the Senior Management Team and Governing Body.

Policy Coordinator: Jill Whitham

Policy Reviewed: June 2026

Appendix

Providers who have been invited into The Sixth form Bolton to date include:

Greater Manchester Combined Authority

Careers and Enterprise Company

Greater Manchester Institute of Technology

The Growth Company

Bolton Council

Edge Hill University

Manchester Metropolitan University

Lancaster University

University of Greater Manchester

University of Lancashire

University of Liverpool

University of Salford

University of Manchester

EY Foundation

Blackburn College

Alliance Learning

Organisational Learning Centre

The Vocational Academy

North Lancs training Group

Bolton College

Bury College

Wigan and Leigh College

HM Armed Forces

Name of Policy	Provider Access Policy Statement
Date Reviewed	June 2026
Next Review	Summer 2027
JCC Consultation	Not required
Governing Corporation Approval	Required
Cross Reference to other Policies / Source Documents	Careers Policy Visitor Policy IT Acceptable Use Policy Code of Conduct Student Contracts Policy Student Behaviour/ Expectations Policy Safeguarding/child protection policy

	https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/careers-guidance-provision-for-young-people-in-schools/careers-guidance-and-access-for-education-and-training-providers Skills and Post-16 Education Act 2022 Statutory Guidance: Careers Guidance and Access for Education and Training Providers
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