

Ormiston Academies Trust

Ormiston Horizon Academy

Provider access policy statement (PAL)

Access for colleges, training providers, universal technical colleges, universities, and all other post-16 providers, including technical, vocational, and academic routes and apprenticeships.

Policy version control

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Contents

1. Introduction	3
2. Pupil entitlement.....	3
2.1. Meaningful provider encounters	3
2.2. Pupil entitlement.....	4
2.3. Minimum two provider encounters per phase.....	4
3. Management of provider access requests	5
3.1. Procedure	5
3.2. Opportunities for a provider visit	6
3.3. Previous pupil destinations	9
4 Premises and facilities	10
Appendix 1	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Exemplar for academy internal guidance only	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Appendix 2	Error! Bookmark not defined.

1. Introduction

- 1.1. Ormiston Horizon Academy is committed to supporting our students to make informed decisions about their future pathways. We act impartially, in line with our statutory duties, to ensure that we promote a full range of academic routes, technical routes, and apprenticeships. We believe that it is vital to ensure that all pupils are aware of the benefits of apprenticeships, T levels and other approved technical qualifications and can consider them, alongside academic options, when making decisions about their next steps, aiming to reduce drop out from courses and avoid the risk of students becoming NEET (Young people not in education, employment, or training).
- 1.2. The quality and impact of careers provision at Ormiston Horizon Academy is monitored by the Career Leader, our Senior Leadership Team, the National Lead Practitioner Enrichment Careers and OAT, based on current good practice guidelines by the Department for Education, Gatsby Benchmarks and Careers and Enterprise Company (CEC). Access and opportunity to engage with technical, vocational, and training providers will form part of this process.
- 1.3. Links with other policies. This policy supports and is underpinned by key school policies, including those for Careers, Child protection, Equality and diversity, and SEND.
- 1.4. 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. Ormiston Horizon Academy is committed to encouraging all students to make decisions about their future based on impartial guidance.

2. Pupil entitlement

2.1. Meaningful provider encounters

- 2.1.1. 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.

[Making it Meaningful: Benchmark 7 | CEC Resource Directory \(careersandenterprise.co.uk\)](https://careersandenterprise.co.uk/benchmark-7)

- 2.1.2. As part of our careers programme, we will consider requests from approved training, apprenticeship, technical and vocational educational providers, including University Technical Colleges where appropriate, to speak to our students. Ormiston Horizon Academy will also approach these providers directly when planning and organising key career related events throughout the school year, such as school assemblies, webinars within the curriculum, including live events, careers management events and parents' evenings.

2.2. Pupil entitlement

2.2.1. The Baker Clause is legally enforceable, and our academy is committed to meeting its requirements. All pupils in years 8 to 13 are entitled:

- To find out about technical education qualifications and apprenticeships opportunities, as part of a careers programme 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

2.3. Minimum two provider encounters per phase

2.3.1. All schools must provide a **minimum of two encounters** with providers of technical education or apprenticeships **at each key phase of their education**:

- Phase 1 - the period beginning at the same time as the school year in which the majority of pupils in the pupils' class attain the age of 13 and ending with 28 February in the following school year (Year 8 and between 1 September and 28 February during Year 9)
- Phase 2 - the period beginning at the same time as the school year in which the majority of pupils in the pupils' class attain the age of 15 and ending with 28 February in the following school year (Year 10 and between 1 September and 28 February during Year 11)
- Phase 3 - the period beginning at the same time as the school year in which the majority of pupils in the pupils' class attain the age of 17 and ending with 28 February in the following school year (Year 12 and between 1 September and 28 February during Year 13)

This entitlement is in line with the updated Department for Education Provider Access Legislation, from January 2023, and the DfE Statutory Careers Guidance, May 2025,

These six meetings are timed to inform consideration of post-14, post-16 and post-18 options and progression to the next stage of education or training. This gives pupils the opportunity to consider how studying or training in different ways, and in different environments, beyond academic education might suit their skills, interests, and aptitudes.

2.3.2. For pupils of compulsory school age these encounters are **mandatory** for all to attend and there will be a minimum of two encounters for **year 8 to 9** pupils and two encounters for **year 10 to 11** pupils. For pupils in **year 12 to 13**, particularly those that have not yet decided on their next steps, there are two more provider encounters available during this period, which are optional for pupils to attend.

2.3.3. Schools should encourage all pupils to attend the encounters. However, optional attendance for older pupils recognises that, while many 16- to 18-year-olds will benefit from finding out more about post-18 technical options, some will already have made a firm decision to pursue their chosen pathway.

- 2.3.4. The Provider Access Legislation includes flexibility for schools to arrange encounters with the same provider across more than one 'key phase.' For example, a school may invite an FE college to talk to pupils in the first key phase (year 8 to 9) about key stage 4 options and to talk to pupils in the second key phase (year 10 to 11) about post-16 options. However, within the same key phase, schools must always provide meaningful encounters with two different providers to meet the legal requirement. Schools should also ensure appropriateness of the encounters for learners with SEND.
- 2.3.5. In schools, the governing body must make sure that learners in years 8 to 13 receive at least six encounters with a provider of technical education or apprenticeships.

2.4. Content of the provider encounters

- 2.4.1. Ormiston Horizon Academy will ensure that each registered pupil meets with a representative range of education and training providers and that the providers will provide the following set of prescribed information, as a minimum:
- 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 the learning or training with the provider is like; (including the opportunity to meet staff and students from the provider) and
 - Responses to questions from the pupils (including our most vulnerable and those with additional learning needs) about the provider or technical education qualifications and apprenticeships.
- 2.4.2. Where practical, our registered students will have access to a university technical college
- 2.4.3. Ormiston Horizon Academy will ensure that the six encounters happen for a reasonable period of time during the standard school day. Provider encounters that take place outside of school hours, for example parent's evenings, do not count towards fulfillment of the legal requirement for six provider encounters, but schools are still encouraged to provide these complimentary experiences for parents and their parents/carers.
- 2.4.4. Parental/carer involvement is encouraged, and parents/carers may be invited to attend events to meet with providers.

3. Management of provider access requests

3.1. Procedure

- 3.1.1 This part of the policy statement sets out the school's arrangements for managing the access of providers to pupils at the school for the purposes 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, the legal duty known as the ‘Baker Clause’, 2018 and the Skills and Post-16 Education Act 2022.

- 3.1.2 A provider wishing to request delivering a provider access session to pupils should contact Karen Naylor (knaylor@horizonoat.co.uk) All requests made by providers should be emailed at least 6 weeks in advance of the expected date of the session.

Telephone: 01782 883333 Email: knaylor@horizonoat.co.uk

- 3.1.3 The academy will then work with providers to identify the most effective opportunity for them to share information about education and training opportunities. The Careers Leader will prepare for each provider visit by notifying students and their parents/carers to consult the provider website for background information, including details of the courses and qualifications that the provider offers and their Ofsted grade.

3.2. Opportunities for a provider visit

- 3.2.1. Providers will be invited to contribute to academy events integrated into the school careers programme, these will offer providers an opportunity to come into school to speak to pupils and/or their parents/carers. The academy will make provider visits available to all students in the relevant year group.
- 3.2.2. The Careers Leader will ensure that the provider visit will be for a ‘reasonable period of time during the standard school day.’ The Academy Day runs from 8.30am until 3pm on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday and 8.30am until 2.20pm on Wednesdays.
- 3.2.3. The academy offers a comprehensive careers education programme. The academy is committed to working with other providers to ensure our pupils can make informed decisions about future choices. Where possible, we like to align visits with our programmed calendar of Career Education, Information and Guidance (CEIAG) (see below). As a provider, please speak to our named Careers Leader to identify the most suitable opportunity for you.
- 3.2.4. Once a provider visit request has been submitted, the Academy Careers Leader will respond within 10 working days. All requests will be given due consideration by the designated Careers Leader and Senior Leadership Team.
- 3.2.5. Once the request has been granted, we will ask you for a range of information to share with our pupils and parents/carers before the session. This may include a prospectus, letter, or presentation.
- 3.2.6. This should include:
- Details of the opportunities you offer, including technical education, courses, and entry requirements.
 - What is the learning like in your institution?

- How do you prepare students for their best next step on successful completion of your course/training?
- Provide examples of linking courses with careers relating to the labour market and recent positive destinations of pupils who have completed their learning with you.

3.2.7. Requests will be considered against:

- Clashes with other planned activities or visits
- Interruption to preparation for public or internal examinations
- Availability of school staff, space, and resources to host the session
- All requests will also be considered in line with the academy's Safeguarding policy. For questions on this policy statement or the wider careers programme at Ormiston Horizon Academy please do not hesitate to contact us.
- Ormiston Horizon Academy will keep a log of all provider requests for access and the outcomes and record on Compass+ to support delivery and evaluation of the careers programme.

	Autumn Term	Spring Term	Summer Term
Year 7	Careers Curriculum x6 lessons High achievers workshops with Careers Advisor Sport specific workshops	Careers Curriculum x6 lessons Assembly: Phoenix Gas	STEM Day
Year 8	Careers Curriculum x6 lessons Subject specific workshops Assembly: DWP STEM Day Mini University programme	Careers Curriculum x6 lessons Sport specific workshops Mini University programme Industry days Assembly: MPCT Group careers advisor meetings	MPCT Army Day

	Autumn Term	Spring Term	Summer Term
Year 9	<p>Careers Curriculum x6 lessons</p> <p>Subject specific workshops</p> <p>Post 16 Assembly</p> <p>University Trip</p>	<p>Careers Curriculum x6 lessons</p> <p>Sport specific workshops</p> <p>Industry day workshops</p> <p>Options taster sessions</p> <p>Options Evening</p> <p>1-1 careers meetings</p> <p>Labour Market Sessions</p>	<p>Assembly: Post 16 provider</p>
Year 10	<p>Careers Curriculum x6 lessons</p> <p>Subject specific taster sessions</p> <p>Work Experience Launch</p> <p>Assembly: DWP</p> <p>1-1 careers meetings</p>	<p>Careers Curriculum x6 lessons</p> <p>Core Subject A-Level Workshops</p> <p>Sport specific workshops</p> <p>Oxford University Visits</p> <p>Apprenticeship EXPO</p> <p>Option specific workshops</p> <p>Assembly: Phoenix Gas</p> <p>Careers Challenges: The Inspirational Learning Group</p>	<p>Step into 6th Form</p> <p>NSCG Taster days</p> <p>Work Experience Week</p> <p>Sports Careers Day</p>
Year 11	<p>Careers Curriculum x6 lessons</p> <p>Stepping into greatness workshops</p> <p>PSHE curriculum</p>	<p>Careers Curriculum x6 lessons</p> <p>Core Subject A-Level Workshops</p> <p>Sport specific workshops</p>	

	Autumn Term	Spring Term	Summer Term
	Assembly's from Post 16 providers	Assembly's from Post 16 providers 1-1 careers meetings Careers Challenges: The Inspirational Learning Group	

3.2.8. The academy policies on safeguarding and visitors sets out the school's approach to allowing providers into school as visitors to talk to our students. These can be found on the school website.

3.2.9. In previous terms/years we have invited the following providers from the local area to speak to our pupils:

- MPCT, NULC, Stoke Sixth Form College, Reaseheath College, Stoke College, Biddulph Sixth Form, LLS apprenticeships, KMF, NHS apprenticeships, St Margaret Ward Sixth Form, Armed Forces, Phoenix Gas, Steelite.

3.3. Previous pupil destinations

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

- **90%** of students continued in full time education with a range of providers, including Newcastle College, Stoke College, Stoke Sixth Form College, Reaseheath College, Equality Training and Jill Clewes Academy. This saw an increase of 6% on 2024.
- **7.5%** of students started apprenticeships, jobs with structured training, or study programmes with local training providers.
- Overall, **97.5%** of students continued with structured learning.
- **0.5%** of students entered jobs without structured training.
- Only **0.5%** of students were NEET, which was a huge 1.9% improvement on 2024

Ormiston Horizon Academy Activity Survey 2025							
Sub-total: continuing with structured learning (%)	Continued full-time education (%)	Training & Structured learning in the workplace = (%)	Jobs with no structured training (%)	Not yet settled in any full-time positive activity # (%)	Failed to respond or moved away = (%)	# Focus on those in the Not Yet Settled category who were NEET (%)	Number of leavers in survey
97.5%	90%	7.5%	0.5%	1.5%	1%	0.5%	204

4. Premises and facilities

- 4.1. The school will make the main hall, sports hall, theatre and classrooms or private meeting rooms available for discussions between the provider and students, as appropriate to the activity. The school will also make available projectors and other specialist equipment to support provider presentations. This will all be discussed and agreed in advance of the visit with the Careers Leaders or a member of the academy team.
- 4.2. Meaningful online engagement is also an option, and we are open to providers that are able to provide online engagement with our students. Technology checks in advance will be required to ensure compatibility with systems.
- 4.3. Providers are welcome to leave or send a copy of their prospectus or other relevant course literature to the academy Careers Leader, who will ensure that this is placed in the appropriate careers area of the academy. This area is available to all students at lunchtime.
- 4.4. If a provider wishes to raise a complaint with regards to provider access, this should in the first instance be directed to:

Name:	Lucy Wilkes	Role: Director of Personal Development
Telephone:	01782 883437	Email: lwilkes@horizonoat.co.uk