

Witchford Village College

Provider Access Policy

Approved by Trust:	September 2026
Review cycle:	Annually
Review By:	September 2027

Witchford Village College: Provider Access Policy Statement

(To include The Department of Education, July 2021: “Baker Clause” and the Provider Access Legislation, January 2023)

Ownership: Witchford Village College – Eastern Learning Alliance

Date updated: July 2026

Rationale

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.

Commitment

Witchford Village College 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. Witchford Village College 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.

Witchford Village College 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).

Aims

Witchford Village College 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 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).

Student Entitlement

Witchford Village College fully supports the statutory requirement for students to have direct access to other providers of further education training, technical training and apprenticeships. The school will comply with the new legal requirement to put on at least six encounters with providers of approved technical education qualifications or apprenticeships. This will be done in assemblies in National Apprenticeship Week and National Careers Week, in addition to providers attending careers events at school or at each Trust school.

Year Group	
Year 7	• Careers education units in PSHE. Assemblies to cover Grow throughout life, explore possibilities, manage career, create opportunities, Balance life and work and see the big picture. • Access Unifrog, careers platform • Involvement with local companies/providers through NAW and NCW. • Careers Fair
Year 8	• Careers education units in PSHE. Assemblies to cover Grow throughout life, explore possibilities, manage career, create opportunities, Balance life and work and see the big picture. • Access Unifrog, careers platform • Work Shadowing • Walking Tour of Lancaster Way Business Park • Involvement with local companies/providers through NAW and NCW • Careers Fair
Year 9	• Careers education units in PSHE. Assemblies to cover Grow throughout life, explore possibilities, manage career, Create opportunities, Balance life and work, see the big picture. • Access Unifrog, careers platform • Vocational Taster Day • Amplify your Talent with Anglia Ruskin University • Non-compulsory 1:1 Guidance Meetings offered to students • Magistrates Court Visit • Involvement with local companies/providers through NAW and NCW • Careers Fair
Year 10	• Careers education units in PSHE, drop down days and Assemblies to cover Grow throughout life, explore possibilities, manage career, Create opportunities, Balance life and work, see the big picture. • Access Unifrog, careers platform • Apprenticeship Event • Opportunity for students and parents to attend Post 16 Evening at WVC • Students introduced to the Post 16 application process • East Cambs Skills Fair • Taster Days to Further Education Colleges • Amplify your Talent with Anglia Ruskin University • Work Experience offered to all students • Health & Social Care Expo if available • Post 16 Providers offer opportunities for parents and students to visit • Compulsory 1:1 Guidance Meetings offered to all students • Involvement with local companies/providers through NAW and NCW • Ernst & Young Financial Workshops • Careers Fair

Year 11	• Careers education units in PSHE, drop down days and Assemblies to cover Grow throughout life, explore possibilities, manage career, Create opportunities, Balance life and work, see the big picture. • Access Unifrog, careers platform • Assemblies and workshops from outside providers with a focus on pathways at Post 16, Apprenticeships, Vocational routes, University • Mock Interview Skills Day • Delivery of application process MyChoice@16 • Targeted 1:1 Guidance Meetings • Use of Labour Market Information to demonstrate the changing job market, up and coming trends and links to current subject choices • Opportunity for students and parents to attend the Post 16 Evening at WVC • Post 16 Providers offer opportunities for parents and students to visit • Visit to Cambridge University • Students to take part in Road Safety Assembly/Workshop
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Development

This policy has been developed and is reviewed annually by the Careers Leader and Line Manager – Naomi Barker – Head Teacher based on current good practice guidelines by the Department for Education.

Links with other policies

It supports and is underpinned by key school policies including those for Careers, Child Protection, 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 further education and apprenticeships. Witchford Village College 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 Juliet Martin Head of Careers/Careers Leader/Advisor. They may be contacted by telephone or email, jmartin@wvc.tmet.org.uk, Tel 01353 662053 Ex 7116.

Grounds for granting requests for access

Access will be given for providers to attend during school assemblies, timetabled Careers or Life lessons, and Careers or Raising Aspirations events that Witchford Village College is arranging. Students may also travel to visit another provider as part of the trip to be organised in partnership with Witchford Village College.

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

Witchford Village College will provide an appropriate room or assembly hall to be agreed. All rooms have access to computers, smart screens provided. Computer rooms can also be arranged. The Careers Leader/Careers Adviser 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

Witchford Village College 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 about this policy should be raised to Juliet Martin – Head of Careers, email: jmartin@wvc.tmet.org.uk

Juliet Martin will raise the complaint to Naomi Barker Head Teacher of Witchford Village College.

Monitoring review and evaluation

The Policy is monitored and evaluated annually via the Head of Careers and Headteacher.

Policy Coordinator: Juliet Martin

Policy Reviewed: July 2026

Appendix

Providers who have been invited into Witchford Village College to date include:

Cambridge Regional College

College of West Anglia

Department for Work and Pensions

Hills Road Sixth Form

Anglia Ruskin University

West Suffolk College

Ernst & Young/Thorlabs/Cambridge Commodities/G's Fresh

Local Businesses from Lancaster Way Business Park

NEACO

Long Road Sixth Form

Destinations of previous pupils from Witchford Village College include:

Bishop Laney Sixth Form

Cambridge Regional College

Hills Road Sixth Form

Long Road Sixth Form

College of West Anglia

Cambridge Maths School

Cambridge Academy of Science & Technology

Chesterton Sixth Form

The Oakes Sixth Form