Willow Vale DRAFT Provider Access Policy Statement (PAL)

Updated September 2023

This policy statement sets out the arrangements for managing the access of all post 16 providers to our students, for the purpose of giving information.

Pupil entitlement

All students in years 8 – 11 are entitled to:

- find out about technical education qualifications and apprenticeship opportunities, as part of a careers programme which provides information on the full range of education and training options available at each transition point;
- 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;
- understand how to make applications for the full range of academic and technical courses

In line with the updated Provider Access Legislation, from January 2023, all schools must provide a minimum of six encounters for all students with post 16 providers, as above. This is broken down into key phases:

Year 8 or 9 Two encounters for students that are mandatory for all to attend

Year 10 or 11 Two encounters for students that are mandatory for all to attend

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 students from the provider)
- answer questions from all students, including our most vulnerable and those with additional learning needs.

As many of our students are short term at Willow Vale, we will work with mainstream schools through our review process to ensure every student does get access either here or at school.

As part of our careers programme, we will consider requests from approved training, apprenticeship, technical and vocational education providers, including University Technical Colleges where appropriate, to speak to our students.

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Willow Vale 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 engagement events and parent's evenings. The quality and impact of our careers provision is monitored by Kim Lawrence (Headteacher) and Jonathan Sealby (school career link governor),

Premises and Facilities

Willow Vale have a range of facilities available for providers to use in support of our careers programme. This includes; large classrooms, a Hall, outdoor space and small office type rooms. We also use the online Google Classrooms and Teams. The school will also make available access to IT to support provider presentations. This will all be discussed and agreed in advance of the visit with the Careers Advisor.

Destinations of our students

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

- FE Colleges
- Apprenticeships or Traineeships
- Work with in-house training
- Other

These providers included:

- Richard Huish
- Yeovil College
- Hair Academy Southwest
- Petroc in Tiverton
- Bridgwater and Taunton College (including Cannington and Crockers)

Management of provider access requests

All requests made by providers should be emailed at least 6 weeks in advance of the expected date of the session. In the first instance, requests by providers should be sent to Willow Vale office for the attention of Kim Lawrence (Headteacher)

office@willowvale.org.uk

Tel. no. 01823 349338

Opportunities for access

Willow Vale offers 2/3 provider encounters required by law and a number of additional events, integrated into the school careers programme. We will offer providers an opportunity to come into school to speak to students or their parents or carers.

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