THE MENDIP SCHOOL

Provider Access Policy Statement

Review Due:	May 2026
Last Review	May 2023
Applicable to:	The Mendip School
Reviewed By:	Rachel Findlay
Approved By:	LGB 22.06.23

Safeguarding Statement

At The Mendip School we respect and value all children and young people and are committed to providing a caring, friendly and safe environment for all our students so they can learn, in a relaxed and secure atmosphere. We believe every student should be able to participate in all school activities in an enjoyable and safe environment and be protected from harm. This is the responsibility of every adult employed by, or invited to deliver services at The Mendip School. We recognise our responsibility to safeguard all who access school and promote the welfare of all our learners by protecting them from physical, sexual and emotional abuse, neglect and bullying.

Equality Statement

We will make every effort in creating equality of opportunity in order to ensure they are accessible and fair to everyone. Every person has the right to be treated fairly, regardless of race, gender, sexuality, disability, age, culture, religion, nationality or caring responsibilities. Where necessary we will implement reasonable adjustments or additional support, to ensure equality of access to an education and suitable learning and working environments. Our staff, Trustees and governors who plan, agree and deliver our education provision will recognise diversity and demonstrate a proactive approach in their day-to-day work. They will ensure that everyone is treated fairly, recognising special education or physical needs and understanding differences. Behaviour will reach our high standards of conduct (staff and students) and the learning environment we provide will be safe and accessible for those studying and working

The Mendip School

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1. Aims

This policy statement aims to set out our school's arrangements for managing the access of education and training providers to students for the purpose of giving them information about their offer.
It sets out:

- Procedures in relation to requests for access
- The grounds for granting and refusing requests for access
- Details of premises or facilities to be provided to a person who is given access

2. Statutory requirements

Schools are required to ensure that there is an opportunity for a range of education and training providers to access students in years 8 to 13 for the purposes of informing them about approved technical education, qualifications or apprenticeships.

Schools must provide a minimum of 6 encounters with technical education or training providers to all students in years 8 to 13 (see more detail in section 2.1 below).

Schools must also have a policy statement that outlines the circumstances in which education and training providers will be given access to these students.

This is outlined in section 42B of the Education Act 1997, the Skills and Post-16 Act 2022 and on page 43 of guidance from the Department for Education (DfE) on careers guidance and access for education and training providers.

This policy shows how our school complies with these requirements.

2.1 The 6 encounters school must offer to all students in years 8 - 13

Schools must offer:

- 2 encounters for students during the 'first key phase' (year 8 or 9)
    - All students must attend
    - Encounters can take place any time during year 8, and between 1 September and 28 February during year 9
- 2 encounters for students during the 'second key phase' (year 10 or 11)
    - All students must attend
    - Encounters can take place any time during year 10, and between 1 September and 28 February during year 11
- 2 encounters for students during the 'third key phase' (year 12 or 13)
    - Students can choose to attend
    - Encounters can take place any time during year 12, and between 1 September and 28 February during year 13

These encounters must happen for a reasonable period of time during the standard school day. Schools can continue to provide complementary experiences, but encounters outside of school hours won't count towards these requirements.

Schools must ask each provider to provide the following information as a minimum:

- Information about the provider and the approved qualifications or apprenticeships they offer
- Information about what careers those qualifications and apprenticeships can lead to
- What learning or training with the provider is like
- Answers to any questions from students

2.2 Meaningful provider encounters

Our school is committed to providing meaningful encounters to all students.
1 encounter is defined as 1 meeting/session between students and 1 provider.
Meaningful encounters will:

- Implement a progressive programme that broadens horizons, and scaffolds development of the knowledge and understanding required for students to identify their best next steps, from when students join
- Use destination data and Labour Market Information (LMI) to identify any gaps and implement appropriate intervention
- Use relevant destinations data and LMI to inform continuous improvement
- Harness employer and alumni voice through multi-benchmark approaches where young people can be supported to understand learning opportunities through encounters and experiences of the workplace
- Consider all stakeholders and their knowledge, understanding and potential misconceptions
- Support all pathways for all young people
- Provide equality of access to information and understanding

Meaningful live online engagement can also be utilised to support pupils.

3. Student Entitlement

All students in years 8 to 13 at The Mendip School are entitled to:

- Find out about technical education qualifications and apprenticeship opportunities as part of our 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, e.g. through activities and events such as options events, assemblies, career fairs and taster events
- Understand how to make applications for the full range of academic and technical courses
- Have access to independent careers guidance for students in school years 7 to 13

4. Management of provider access requests

4.1 Procedure

A provider wishing to request access should contact our Careers Lead
Telephone: 01749 838040
Email: office@themendipschool.com

4.2 Opportunities for access

A number of events, integrated into our careers programme, will offer providers an opportunity to come into school to speak to students and/or their parents/carers:

Some examples of opportunities for access are shown below:

	autumn term	spring term	summer term
Year 8	**Event for colleges and other training providers e.g Somerset Skills and Learning.**	**Employer event for students, parents – enterprise days**	**Careers workshop** **Technical/vocational tasters at local college/s, training providers**
Year 9	**Assembly and tutor group opportunities - employability skills** **Meeting with careers adviser**	**Key Stage 4 options event**	**No encounters –encounters must have taken place by 28 February**
Year 10	**Careers Fair** **Life Skills – work experience preparation sessions** **Assembly and tutor group opportunities - employability skills**	**Networking event with providers and employers** **Technical/vocational tasters at local college/s, training providers**	**Work experience preparation sessions** **Work experience** **Technical/vocational tasters at local college/s, training providers**
Year 11	**Careers Fair** **Post-16 provider open evenings** **Post-16 apprenticeships assembly** **Meetings with careers adviser** **Post-16 applications**	**Post-16 interviews** **Apprenticeships – support with applications**	**No encounters –encounters must have taken place by 28 February** **Confirmation of post-16 education and training destinations for all students**
Year 12	**Careers Fair** **Post-18 assembly - apprenticeships**	**Small group sessions: future education, training and employment options** **Meetings with careers adviser**	**Technical/vocational tasters at local college/s, training providers**
Year 13	**Careers Fair** **Post-18 assembly – employability and other training providers.**	**Meetings with careers adviser** **Assembly and small group opportunities - employability skills**	**No encounters –encounters must have taken place by 28 February** **Confirmation of post-18 education and training destinations for all students**

Please speak to our Careers Lead to identify the most suitable opportunity for you.

These events will run in line with any measures related to public health incidents, including COVID-19.

4.3 Granting and refusing access

A number of events, integrated into the school careers programme, will offer providers an opportunity to come into school to speak to students and/or their parents/carers:
KS4 Option Evenings
Enterprise Days
National Career Week
National Apprenticeship Week
Please speak to our Careers Leader to identify the most suitable opportunity for you.

4.4 Safeguarding

The Partnership Trust (TPT) Safeguarding and Child Protection policy outlines the school's procedure for checking the identity and suitability of visitors.
Education and training providers will be expected to adhere to this policy.

5. Previous providers

In previous years we have invited the following providers from the local area to speak to our students:

DWP JCP Taunton
Clarks Village/LandSec
EDF Energy
Discovery
Strode College
Yeovil College
Bath College
Aurora Foxes
Somerset Skills and Learning
Somerset Works

6. Student destinations

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

Bath College
Strode College
Yeovil College
Somerset Skills and Learning
Apprenticeships

Last year, our year 13 students moved to a range of providers in the local area after school:

Bath College
Strode College
Yeovil College

7. Complaints

Any complaints related to provider access can be raised following The Partnership Trust Complaints Procedure (See appendix 1) or directly with The Careers & Enterprise Company via provideraccess@careersandenterprise.co.uk

8. Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed and approved by a member of the senior leadership team every 3 of years. At every review, the policy will be shared with the governing board.

Appendix 1: List of statutory policies and procedures

Statutory policy or procedure for the EYFS	Where can it be found?
Safeguarding policy and procedures	TPT Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy
Procedure for responding to illness	TMS First Aid Policy or TMS Children who cannot attend due to medical needs
Administering medicines policy	TMS Administration of Medication
Emergency evacuation procedure	TMS Emergency Plan
Procedure for checking the identity of visitors	TPT Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy
Procedure for dealing with concerns and complaints	TPT Complaints Policy