



**Hermitage
Academy**

Provider Access Policy

For the Academic Year 2025/26



**North East
Learning Trust**

Provider Access Policy and Student Entitlement

This policy statement sets out the school's arrangements for managing the access of providers to pupils at the school for the purpose 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.

Introduced as an amendment to the Technical and Further Education Act 2017, the Baker Clause stipulates that schools must allow colleges and training providers access to every student in Years 8 to 13 (8 to 13 at Hermitage Academy) to inform them about approved technical education qualifications and apprenticeships.

The Department for Education (DfE) updated the Statutory guidance for schools and set out expectations for compliance, which included the following:

- Schools must act impartially and not show any bias towards any route, be that academic or technical.
- Schools should promote the full range of technical options.
- Schools must open their doors to other education and training providers, providing a range of opportunities for providers to talk to all year 8 - 13 pupils about their offer.
- Pupils should be aware of the benefits of apprenticeships, T Levels and other approved technical education qualifications.
- Schools should make every effort to improve their performance against the 8 Gatsby Benchmarks.
- Governing bodies and senior leaders should review their arrangements for provider access and prepare and publish a policy statement on the school website.

Management of Provider Access Requests Procedure

A provider wishing to request access should contact:

Mrs Janine Marshall (CEIAG Lead)

Mrs Wake (Careers Lead)

Tel: 0191 388 7161

Email: careers@hermitageacademy.co.uk

Updated Provider Access Legislation

The provider access legislation (PAL) has been updated and came into force in January 2023. Building on the Baker Clause, this provides more guidance to schools to ensure

that we help our learners understand all of the pathways available post-16 and not just the traditional academic pathways.

Consequently, Hermitage Academy will ensure that all learners are provided with at least:

- Two encounters for pupils during the 'first key phase' (year 8 or 9) that are mandatory for all pupils to attend.
- Two encounters for pupils during the 'second key phase' (year 10 or 11) that are mandatory for all pupils to attend.

A provider, to whom access is given, must deliver an encounter that includes the following:

- 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 learning or training with the provider is like.
- Responses to questions from the pupils about the provider or approved technical education qualifications and apprenticeships.

Opportunities for Access

There are a number of opportunities available to come into school to speak to pupils and/or their parents/carers:

- A number of post-16 events which will typically be organised in the autumn, spring and summer terms.
- Events during National Careers Week and throughout the academic year.
- Parents evenings (as indicated in the school calendar) whereby employers/providers are able to speak with parents/carers and pupils.
- Year group assemblies which afford the opportunity for whole cohorts to be addressed.

Aside from this, it may be possible to arrange bespoke opportunities to address students' requirements, however, any such arrangements are at the discretion of Hermitage Academy and will be dependent on calendar restrictions. Further to this, providers can provide relevant literature to the school and this will be distributed to pupils and/or parents/carers; this can be via email if sent to Mrs Janine Marshall or Mrs Michelle Wake (email is above).

Premises and facilities

The school will make the main hall, classrooms, meeting rooms and the activity hall available for events that are arranged for providers and students to engage in discussions, as appropriate to the activity and dependent upon availability at the given time. The school will also make available equipment to support presentations by request. This can be discussed and agreed in advance of the visit with the CIEAG Lead