



# PROVIDER ACCESS POLICY STATEMENT

April 2025

**Draft V1 - Awaiting approval from advocates**

<b>Policy written &amp; owned by</b>	Elliot Payne, Head of School Named Careers Leader
<b>Policy Adopted/Reviewed</b>	April 2025
<b>Approved by</b>	Marie George, Senior Strategic Lead
<b>Review Date</b>	Sept 2025



## Contents

1. Aims .....	3
2. Statutory requirements .....	3
3. Student entitlement .....	4
4. Management of provider access requests.....	4
5. Previous providers.....	6
6. Pupil destinations.....	6
7. Complaints.....	6
8. Links to other policies.....	6
9. Monitoring arrangements .....	7



## 1. Aims

This policy statement aims to set out **The Bridge Academy'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 11 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 pupils in years 8 to 11 (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 schools must offer to all pupils in years 8 to 11

Schools must offer:

- 2 encounters for pupils during Key Stage 3 (year 8 or 9)
  - All pupils on roll at **The Bridge Academy** will have the opportunity to attend
  - Encounters can take place any time during year 8, and between 1 September and 28 February during year 9
- 2 encounters for pupils during the 'second key phase' (year 10 or 11)
  - All pupils on roll at **The Bridge Academy** will have the opportunity to attend
  - Encounters can take place any time during year 10, and between 1 September and 28 February during year 11

These encounters will happen for a reasonable period of time during the standard school day. **The Bridge Academy** will also provide complementary experiences.

**The Bridge Academy** ask the follow of each provider:

- 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 pupils



At **The Bridge Academy**, we have mapped out across the year different experiences that will be available to students on roll. Given the complexity of our provision, and the ever changing cohorts, we will endeavour to ensure that our young people have access to opportunities.

Examples of encounters include:

- Visits to local and regional training and education providers, including Stafford College and South Staffordshire College's four campuses.
- External guests to speak with students at school from local and regional training providers including Juniper Training; Nova Training; and the Housing Association.
- Virtual speakers from local, regional and national providers, which offer information, advice and guidance as well as a question and answer session, often inline with key recruitment dates and awareness weeks, such as Apprenticeship Week.
- Annual attendance at the National Apprenticeship and Careers Event in Birmingham for students to engage with over 250 employers and providers of further education and skills.

## 2.2 Meaningful provider encounters

**The Bridge Academy** is committed to providing meaningful encounters to all pupils.

1 encounter is defined as 1 meeting/session between pupils and 1 provider.

Meaningful live online engagement is also an option at our school.

## 3. Student entitlement

All students in years 8 to 11 at **The Bridge Academy** 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 and taster events
- Understand how to make applications for the full range of academic and technical courses

## 4. Management of provider access requests

### 4.1 Procedure

A provider wishing to request access should contact:

**Mr Elliot Payne**

**Head of School and Named**

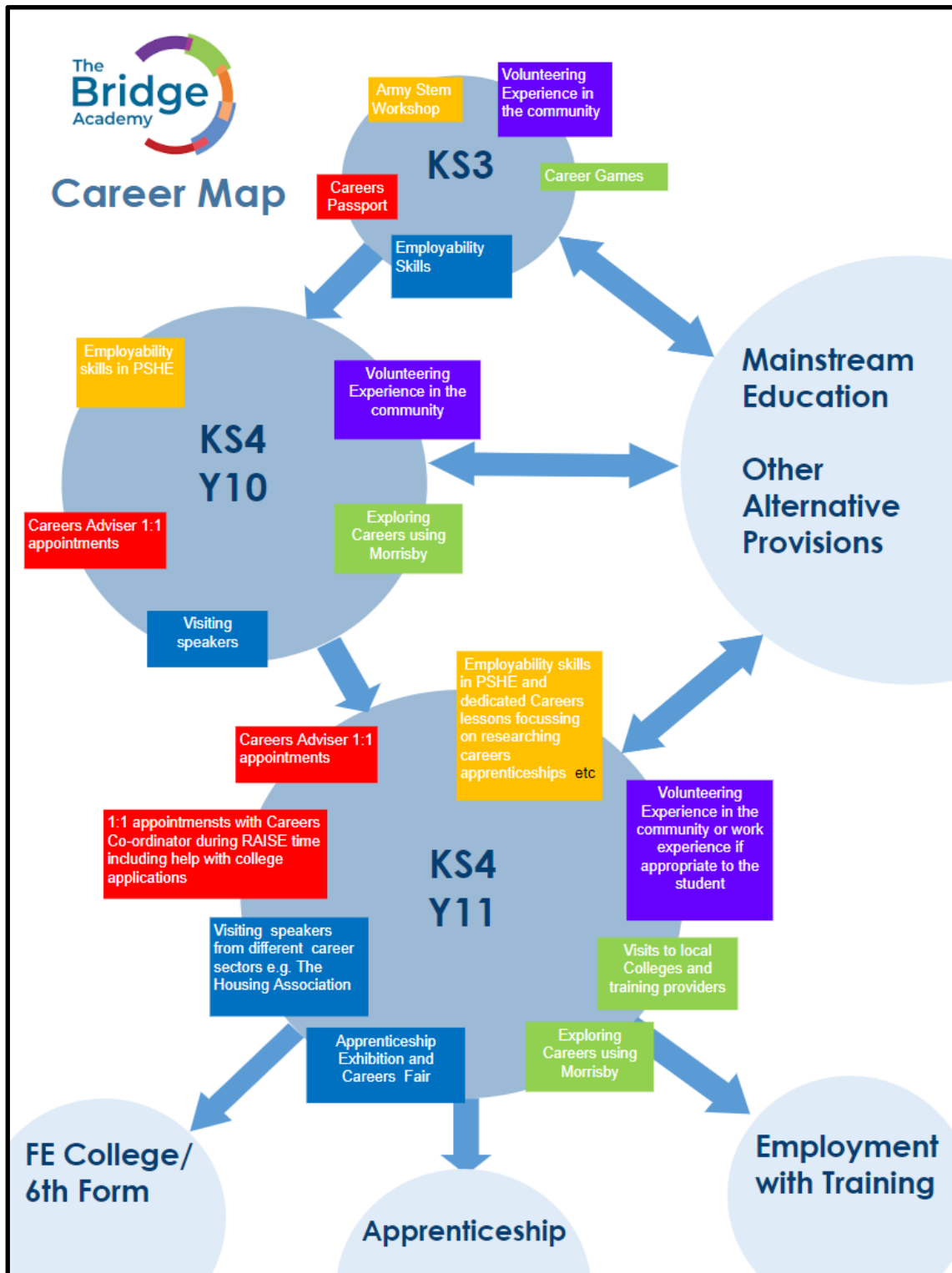
Telephone: 01543 255872

Email: [elliott.payne@bridge.staffs.sch.uk](mailto:elliott.payne@bridge.staffs.sch.uk)

### 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:





Please speak to our **Named Careers Leader** to identify the most suitable opportunity for you. These events will run in line with any measures related to public health incidents.

### 4.3 Granting and refusing access

Students at **The Bridge Academy** follow a timetable across the week. There are weekly 'Careers' dedicated lessons for students in Key Stage 4; daily form time every morning and weekly



'Enrichment' sessions. These are times that we would benefit most from having external agencies and speakers to come and talk with our students, to offer meaningful provider encounters.

Please contact the **Named Careers Leader** for more information.

#### 4.4 Safeguarding

Our safeguarding/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.

Information about our Safeguarding Policy, is available here on our website:

<https://thebridgeacademy.atlp.org.uk/safeguarding/>. Visitors will be expected to have a full and enhanced DBS if they are working directly with children, or they will need to be supervised by a member of our Academy staff.

#### 4.5 Premises and facilities

At **The Bridge Academy**, we have a unique building that best caters for the needs of our students. Classrooms have ICT access, but this is linked to our network, therefore if you need any specific audio, visual or digital resources, please let us know in advance of this.

### 5. Previous providers

In previous years we have invited a range of providers from the local area and beyond to speak to our pupils. These have included established business; local business people; colleges, further education and training providers, and more.

We are open to new companies, individuals and organisations visiting us and providing meaningful provider encounters.

### 6. Pupil destinations

In recent years, year 11 pupils moved to a range of providers in the local area after school:

- Stafford College
- Walsall College
- South Staffordshire College (Cannock, Lichfield and Rodbaston Campuses)
- Nova Training
- Juniper Training
- Local apprenticeship partners

### 7. Complaints

Any complaints related to provider access can be raised following the school complaints procedure found here - <https://thebridgeacademy.atlp.org.uk/about/school-policies/> or directly with The Careers & Enterprise Company via [provideraccess@careersandenterprise.co.uk](mailto:provideraccess@careersandenterprise.co.uk)

### 8. Links to other policies

This policy should be read in conjunction with the following policies:

- Safeguarding/child protection policy
- Careers guidance policy



- Curriculum policy
- Complaints policy

## 9. Monitoring arrangements

The school's arrangements for managing the access of education and training providers to students are monitored by **Elliot Payne, Head of School**.

This policy will be reviewed annually by the policy owner.

At every review, the policy will be approved by the governing board.

