Provider Access Policy Statement

Implemented and reviewed	K Calder
Date of implementation	September 2018
Date of review	September 2026
Next review date	September 2027

Name of School: The Rowans AP Academy

Part of The Howard Multi Academy Trust

To include The Department of Education, July 2021: "Baker Clause" and the Provider Access Legislation, January 2023.

Ownership: The Rowans AP Academy

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, V-Levels and Higher Technical Qualifications.

Commitment

The Rowans AP Academy 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. The Rowans AP Academy 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.

The Rowans AP Academy 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

The Rowans AP Academy 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 and vocational 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

The Rowans AP Academy fully supports the statutory requirement for students to have direct access to other providers of further education training, technical and vocational 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, vocational qualifications or apprenticeships. This will be done in small groups activities, group talks, in lesson time, visits to providers and also via providers attending careers events at school, such as our annual careers fair. This will be strategically planned for each subject across the academic year.

As stated in Gatsby Benchmark 5

BENCHMARK	SUMMARY	CRITERIA
5 ENCOUNTERS WITH EMPLOYERS AND EMPLOYEES	Every pupil should have multiple opportunities to learn from employers about work, employment and the skills that are valued in the workplace. This can be through a range of enrichment ~~activities~~ opportunities, including visiting speakers, mentoring and enterprise schemes, and could include pupils' own part-time employment where it exists.	• Every year, from the age of 11, pupils should participate in at least one meaningful encounter* with an employer.

Development:

This policy has been developed and is reviewed annually by the Careers Leader, *Rajinder Poonian* and *Katie Calder*, and Line Manager/ headteacher, *Fiona May* 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. The Rowans AP Academy 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 *Rajinder Poonian* (Careers Lead) or *Katie Calder*. Both may be contacted by telephone or email at *rajinder.poonian@therowansap.co.uk* / *katie.calder@therowansap.co.uk* Tel *01634 338803.*

Grounds for granting requests for access:

Access will be given for providers to attend during school assemblies, PSHE lessons, timetabled 'careers' or 'life lessons', and 'careers' or 'raising aspirations' events that The Rowans AP Academy is arranging. Students may also travel to visit a provider as part of a trip to be organised in partnership with *The Howard Academy Trust*.

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

The Rowans AP Academy will provide an appropriate room or assembly hall to be agreed with the provider. All rooms have computers, projectors and screens available, with a computer room also available on request. The Careers Leader or Careers Adviser will organise this, working closely with the provider to ensure the facilities are appropriate to the audience and purpose. Appropriate safeguarding checks will be carried out in line with our School Visitors Policy. Providers will be met and supervised by a member of the Careers Team who will sign them in at reception and facilitate their visit throughout.

Live/Virtual encounters:

The Rowans AP Academy 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. However, as a school we do recommend that provider attend in person as this is more meaningful for our pupils.

Parents and Carers:

Parental involvement is encouraged, and parents may be invited to attend the events to meet the providers especially the annual careers fair. Information is routinely sent to all parents and carers, including, but not limited to: sending details for Kent Choices App, details of careers fair and other events held in school, communication surrounding college interviews and meetings.

Management:

The Careers Leaders coordinate all provider requests and are responsible to their senior management line manager, *Fiona May*.

Complaints Procedure:

Any complaints about this policy should be raised to *Katie Calder*, email: *katie.calder@therowansap.co.uk*

Katie Calder will raise the complaint to *Fiona May, Headteacher of The Rowans AP academy.*

Any complaints with regards to provider access can be raised following the school complaints procedure or directly with The Careers & Enterprise Company via: provideraccess@careersandenterprise.co.uk

Monitoring review and evaluation:

The Policy is monitored and evaluated annually via the Senior Leadership Team.

Policy Coordinator: Katie Calder

Policy Reviewed: September 2026

Appendix

Providers who have been invited into The Rowans AP Academy to date include**:**

ALL Tasks scaffolding	The University of Creative Arts
Civil Service	Skanska
IPS international	Greenwich university
NACRO	National grid
MidKent college	Swale Skills Centre
Kent police	Sports Connect

NHS Trust	Superjam
McDonalds	The Electrical Academy
Wild Wood Media	Rivermead 6th Form

Destinations of previous pupils from The Rowans AP Academy include:

MidKent College, Gillingham

MidKent College, Maidstone

NACRO, Chatham

Apprenticeships with ALL Tasks scaffolding

Kite College, Sittingbourne

TCHC's GAPS Centre, Strood