

**Queen's Croft High School
Provider Access Policy Statement
2026-2027**

Introduction

Queen's Croft High School is committed to complying with the statutory requirements set out in Section 42B of the Education Act 1997, the Department for Education's Provider Access Legislation (PAL), and the principles established through the Baker Clause. The school is dedicated to ensuring that all students receive high-quality, impartial careers education and have access to information about the full range of post-16 and post-18 opportunities available to them.

As a special school, we recognise that our students may progress to a variety of destinations, including further education, supported internships, supported employment, apprenticeships, specialist provision, independent living pathways, and community-based opportunities. We are committed to helping every student and their families make informed decisions about their future.

Rationale

High-quality careers education plays a vital role in preparing young people for adulthood. It enables students to develop an understanding of the world of work, explore different career pathways, and develop the knowledge and skills required for future success.

Queen's Croft High School is committed to ensuring that students, parents and carers understand the wide range of opportunities available after compulsory education, including academic, vocational, technical and employment-based routes. Through meaningful encounters with employers, training providers and educational institutions, students are supported to make well-informed decisions about their next steps.

Commitment

Queen's Croft High School is committed to providing all students with access to impartial careers information, advice and guidance. We will:

- Promote awareness of all available progression routes.
- Provide opportunities to meet a range of education and training providers.
- Encourage aspirations and ambition.
- Support students to develop independence, employability and life skills.
- Ensure compliance with all statutory provider access requirements.
- Promote equality of opportunity and challenge stereotypes.

Aims

The aims of this policy are to:

- Ensure all students have access to information about technical education qualifications, apprenticeships and alternative progression pathways.
- Support students to make informed decisions about their future education, training and employment.
- Raise aspirations and broaden career horizons.
- Promote positive destinations and successful transitions into adulthood.
- Reduce the risk of students becoming Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET).

- Support the Gatsby Benchmarks and the school's wider Careers Programme.

Student Entitlement

All students at Queen's Croft High School are entitled to receive impartial careers information about the full range of post-16 and post-18 options available, including:

- Further Education colleges
- Sixth Form provision
- Apprenticeships
- T Levels
- Higher Technical Qualifications
- Supported Internships
- Supported Employment
- Independent Living Programmes
- Training providers
- Employment opportunities

In accordance with Provider Access Legislation, the school will provide a minimum of:

- Two encounters with approved providers of technical education qualifications and apprenticeships during Key Stage 3 (Years 8–9).
- Two encounters with approved providers of technical education qualifications and apprenticeships during Key Stage 4 (Years 10–11).
- Two encounters with approved providers of technical education qualifications and apprenticeships during Key Stage 5 (Years 12–13).

The Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 encounters will be mandatory for all students. The school will also provide opportunities for Key Stage 5 students to access provider encounters in line with statutory requirements.

These encounters will be integrated into the school's careers programme and may take place through:

- Careers fairs
- Employer engagement activities
- Assemblies
- Workshops
- Careers and Personal Development lessons
- National Careers Week activities
- National Apprenticeship Week activities
- Workplace visits
- College and training provider presentations
- Supported internship events
- Transition planning events
- Virtual careers encounters

Opportunities for Provider Access

A range of education and training providers are invited into school throughout the academic year to speak to students about their opportunities.

Provider encounters may include information about:

- The provider and the programmes they offer.
- Technical qualifications and apprenticeship opportunities.
- Careers related to those qualifications and programmes.
- What it is like to study, train or work with the provider.
- Progression opportunities available following completion.

Opportunities for provider engagement are built into the school's annual careers programme and are designed to support students at key transition points.

Provider Access Requests

Providers wishing to request access to students should contact:

Miss J. Bradbury

Careers Leader

Queen's Croft High School

Email: j.bradbury@queenscroft.staffs.sch.uk

Telephone: 01543 227245

Requests will be considered on an individual basis and will be assessed in line with:

- The school's careers programme.
- The educational benefit for students.
- Timetabling considerations.
- Safeguarding arrangements.
- The needs of students with SEND.

Facilities and Access Arrangements

Queen's Croft High School will provide suitable facilities to support provider encounters, including:

- Assembly spaces
- Classrooms
- Meeting rooms
- ICT facilities
- Audio-visual equipment

Providers will receive support from the Careers Team where appropriate.

All visitors will be required to comply with the school's safeguarding procedures and visitor protocols.

Virtual Encounters

The school recognises the value of virtual engagement and may facilitate online encounters with providers where appropriate.

Virtual sessions will be arranged in accordance with safeguarding requirements and technical compatibility checks will be carried out prior to delivery.

Parent and Carer Involvement

Queen's Croft High School values the important role that parents and carers play in supporting future planning.

Parents and carers will be encouraged to:

- Attend careers events.
- Engage with information provided by employers and training providers.
- Participate in transition planning meetings.
- Support students in researching future pathways.

Information about careers events and provider encounters will be shared through the school's communication channels where appropriate.

Equality and Diversity

Queen's Croft High School is committed to promoting equality of opportunity.

All students, regardless of ability, gender, ethnicity, disability, faith, sexual orientation or background, will have equal access to provider encounters and careers education activities.

The school actively challenges stereotypes and promotes diversity within education, training and employment.

Links to Other Policies

This policy should be read alongside:

- Careers Education Policy
- Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy
- SEND Policy
- Equality and Diversity Policy
- Behaviour Policy
- Complaints Policy

Management and Monitoring

The Careers Leader is responsible for:

- Coordinating provider access arrangements.
- Monitoring the delivery of statutory encounters.
- Maintaining records of provider encounters.
- Evaluating the impact of careers activities.
- Reporting annually to the Senior Leadership Team and Governing Body.

The school will maintain evidence of provider encounters to demonstrate compliance with Provider Access Legislation requirements.

Complaints

Any concerns regarding provider access should initially be directed to the Careers Leader.

Formal complaints should be made in accordance with the school's Complaints Policy.

Monitoring and Review

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Careers Leader in consultation with the Co-Headteachers, Sam Wood and Letitia Carter and Governing Body.

The policy will be updated as required to reflect changes in legislation, statutory guidance and local practice.

Appendix A – Examples of Providers

Queen's Croft High School works with a range of organisations, including:

- South Staffordshire College
- Burton and South Derbyshire College
- Walsall College
- Mencap
- Juniper Training
- Liberty Jamboree
- The Hive (Sutton Coldfield)
- Local employers
- Apprenticeship providers
- Supported internship providers
- Specialist post-16 providers

This list is reviewed annually and is not exhaustive.

Appendix B – Recent Student Destinations

Examples of recent student destinations include:

- South Staffordshire College
- Walsall College
- Liberty Jamboree
- The Hive (Sutton Coldfield)
- Supported internship programmes
- Specialist post-16 provision
- Employment and training opportunities

Policy Coordinator: J. Bradbury, Careers Leader

Approved by: Governing Body

Date Approved: _____

Review Date: _____

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