

Provider Access Policy 2025-2026

Skegness Academy

Introduction

This policy sets out Skegness Academy's arrangements for managing the access of education and training providers to students for the purpose of giving them information about their technical education, apprenticeship, and career opportunities. The policy complies with the Academy's legal obligations under Section 42B of the Education Act 1997 and the Provider Access Legislation (Skills and Post-16 Education Act 2022). It also reflects the latest Department for Education statutory guidance on careers guidance and access for education and training providers (May 2025).

Student Entitlement

All students in Years 7–13 are entitled to:

- Learn about the full range of education, training and employment opportunities available to them at each transition point.
- Hear from a range of local providers about the opportunities they offer, including technical education and apprenticeships.
- Understand how to make applications for the full range of academic, technical and vocational courses.
- Receive impartial information, advice and guidance that supports their individual career aspirations.

Provider Access Legislation – Six Provider Encounters

In line with statutory requirements, Skegness Academy will provide at least six meaningful encounters with approved providers of technical education and apprenticeships. These will be scheduled as follows:

- Two encounters for pupils in Years 8 or 9 (mandatory for all students).
- Two encounters for pupils in Years 10 or 11 (mandatory for all students).
- Two encounters for pupils in Years 12 or 13 (the Academy must offer these; attendance is not compulsory).

Each encounter will:

- Introduce the provider and the approved technical qualifications/apprenticeships they offer.
- Explain the career routes these opportunities can lead to.
- Provide insight into what learning or training with that provider is like.
- Offer the chance for students to ask questions and engage in discussion.

Management of Provider Access Requests

A provider wishing to request access should contact:

Lauren Tyler, Careers Lead

Telephone: 01754 879122

Email: ltyler@skegnessacademy.org

Opportunities for access will be built into the Academy's careers programme. We welcome engagement at events such as assemblies, careers fairs, curriculum-linked activities, lunchtime drop-in sessions, employer encounters and mock interviews. Encounters can be delivered face-to-face or virtually.

Premises and Facilities

The Academy will make appropriate spaces available for providers to meet students, such as the main hall, classrooms or private meeting rooms. Specialist equipment will be provided as appropriate. This will be agreed in advance with the Careers Lead or their team. Providers may also leave prospectuses, literature and digital resources for distribution via the Academy library or careers resources.

Commitment to Impartiality and Inclusion

The Academy is committed to ensuring that students are aware of the full range of education and training options available to them. Information presented by providers will always be impartial and will cover academic, technical, and apprenticeship routes equally. The Academy will also ensure that access is inclusive and accessible for all students, including those with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND).

Work Experience

In line with updated statutory guidance (May 2025), the Academy will ensure that all students have access to at least two weeks of meaningful work experience by the end of their post-16 education (Key Stage 5). This complements the provider encounters and helps students develop employability skills.

Review

This policy will be reviewed annually to ensure compliance with statutory guidance and will next be reviewed in September 2026.