Downend School
Provider Access Policy Statement

Including The Department of Education, July 2021: "Baker Clause" and the Provider Access Legislation, Jan 2023

DOWNEND SCHOOL

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 and Higher Technical Qualifications.

Commitment

TheDownend 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 school 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.

At Downend we endeavour 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 Downend School 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 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

Downend School fully supports the statutory requirement for students to have direct access to other providers of further education training, technical training and apprenticeships. Downend School complies with the Provider Access Legislation, which states that from the 1st January 2023 all schools must provide at least six encounters with a provider of technical education or apprenticeships for students in years 8 to 13.
This is split into different key phases of learning and looks like the following;

- A minimum of two meaningful encounters during the first key phase (years 8 and 9).
- A minimum of two meaningful encounters during the second key phase (years 10 and 11).
- A further two meaningful encounters across years 12 and/or 13.

These mandatory sessions, as well as further sessions which are relevant to groups of students' specific needs/interests include assemblies, workshops, visits, conferences, seminars. Lists of providers that we have worked with over the last few years can be found in Appendix 1. Whilst these happen throughout the academic year, there is a school wide emphasis during National Apprenticeship Week and National Careers Week, in addition to providers attending careers events during Downend School Enrichment Week.

Development

This policy has been developed and is reviewed annually by the Careers Leader and Line Manager (*Emma Merryweather: James Smale - Joint Careers Leads: Jarah Cole Assistant Headteacher*) based on current good practice guidelines by the Department for Education, The Careers and Enterprise Company and the Careers Development Institute.

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. Downend School 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 Careers Leaders.
Emma Merryweather *Emma.Merryweather@cset.co.uk* James Smale *james.smale@cset.co.uk* Joint Careers Leads

Grounds for granting requests for access

Access will be given for providers to attend during school assemblies, lunchtime dropins, timetabled Careers or LifeSkills lessons, Enrichment week and Careers or Raising Aspirations events that Downend School is arranging. Students may also travel to visit another provider as part of the trip to be organised in partnership with Downend School

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

Downend School will provide an appropriate room or assembly hall as agreed. Rooms can have computers, projectors and screens as requested. Computer suites and laptops can also be arranged. The Careers Leader will organise this, working closely with the provider to ensure the facilities are appropriate for the presenter and the audience. Appropriate safeguarding checks will be carried out of any visitors to the school and when visiting host organisations. Providers will be met, required to present relevant documentation including DBS and photo identification and supervised by a member of the Careers Team.

Live/Virtual encounters

Downend 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.

Parents and Carers

Parental involvement is encouraged, and parents may be invited to attend the events to meet the providers.

Management

The Careers Leader coordinates all provider requests and is responsible to his/her senior management line manager.

Complaints Procedure

Any complaints about this policy should be raised to Jarah Cole, email: jarah.cole@cset.co.uk
Assistant Headteacher Jarah Cole will raise the complaint to Rachel Corns Headteacher

Monitoring review and evaluation

The Policy is monitored and evaluated annually by the Leadership Team and through the Schools Performance & Review (SPR) process.

Policy Coordinator: Jarah Cole - Assistant Headteacher
Policy Reviewed: October 2026

Appendix 1

Providers who have been invited into Downend School or have hosted visits to date include: (Please note these lists are not exhaustive, and involvement may vary on an annual basis)

VWV Law

Curtins

Hewlett Packard Enterprise

Barclays Lifeskills

Fire Service

Brainwaves

The Gym Group

Avon and Somerset Police

University of Bristol

UWE

NatWest

Bank of England

ASK

Royal Navy

RAF

NHS

RAC

FutureQuest

Access Creative

Air Ambulance

Bath College

Morgan Sindall Construction

Boomsatsuma

City of Bristol College

St Brendan's Sixth Form College

Synoptix

RBS

Bath University

InvestIN Education

Smallpeice Trust

STEM

SGS

Renishaw

BT

Paper Birds

UCAS

Graphic Science

Ford

West of England School Summit

BFI

University of Gloucester

Bristol Crown Court

Bristol Bears

Oxford University

Bristol Hippodrome

Bath theatre Royal

Bristol Old Vic

BBC

Various Apprenticeship providers

Rotary Club - local employers

Appendix 2

Destinations of previous pupils from Downend School include:

Further Education (Please note these lists are not fully exhaustive and involvement may vary on an annual basis)

SGS

St Brendan's Sixth Form

Bath College

Downend and Mangotsfield Post 16

Bristol Cathedral Sixth Form

Bristol Grammar

Bristol School of Acting

City of Bristol College

Cabot Learning Federation Post 16

Collegiate Post 16

North Bristol Post 16 Centre

St Mary Redcliffe and Temple Sixth Form Centre

The Big Act

Digitech Studio School

Hartpury College

South Gloucestershire & Stroud College

Access Creative College

Wellsway Sixth Form

V6 Sixth Form

Apprenticeships with various employers & training providers

Appendix 3

Destinations of previous pupils from Downend School include:

Higher Education (Please note these lists are not exhaustive and involvement may vary on an annual basis)

Bangor University

Bath Spa University

Bournemouth University

Brighton University

Bristol, University of the West of England

Buckinghamshire New University in Uxbridge

Cambridge University

Cardiff University

University of Exeter

Falmouth University

University of Edinburgh

Gloucestershire University

Leeds University

Liverpool John Moores University

Liverpool University

Manchester University

Oxford Brookes University

Oxford University

Plymouth University

Portsmouth University

Reading University

Sheffield University

Solent University

Stirling University

Southampton University

Surrey University

Sussex University

Swansea University

University of Birmingham

University of Central Lancashire

University of Glasgow

University of Leicester

University of West of England

Worcester University