

Leigh Academy Blackheath: Provider Access Policy Statement

(Aligned with the Provider Access Legislation (PAL), January 2023)

Ownership: Leigh Academy Blackheath

Date updated: November 2025

Rationale

High quality careers education and guidance in school or college is essential to preparing young people for successful transitions into further study, training and employment. It supports them to acquire the self-development and career management skills they need to achieve positive employment destinations.

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. Leigh Academy Blackheath is committed to ensuring that all students understand the full range of academic and technical pathways available to them, including apprenticeships, T Levels and higher technical qualifications.

By providing access to a diverse range of providers, we aim to support students in developing the knowledge, confidence and career management skills they need to make informed decisions to choose their pathways and to become productive, skilled members of society.

Commitment

Leigh Academy Blackheath is committed to ensuring that all students have meaningful encounters with a range of education and training providers as part of their careers programme. This includes providers of:

- Approved technical education qualifications
- Apprenticeships
- Further education
- Higher education
- Training programmes

In line with statutory duties, we act impartially and do not promote one route over another. All pathways, be that academic, technical and vocational, are presented with equal value and importance.

Leigh Academy Blackheath 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, 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.

Leigh Academy Blackheath endeavours to ensure that all students are aware of all routes to higher skills and can 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).

Student Entitlement (Statutory Requirement)

Under the Provider Access Legislation (PAL 2023), Leigh Academy Blackheath guarantees that every student will have at least six encounters with external providers of technical education or apprenticeships:

Key Stage 3 (Years 7–9)

- At least two encounters with providers

Key Stage 4 (Years 10–11)

- At least two further encounters

Key Stage 5 (Years 12–13)

- At least two additional encounters

These encounters may take place through:

- Assemblies and talks
- Workshops and presentations
- Careers fairs
- University Open Days
- Visits to provider campuses
- Virtual live sessions
- Employer-led technical skills sessions

Encounters occur during National Careers Week, National Apprenticeship Week, whole-school careers events and other scheduled opportunities.

Aims

The Leigh Academy Blackheath 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. Enabling students to meet and engage with providers from different sectors.

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. Helping students make informed choices at transition points.

To reduce drop out from courses and avoid the risk of students becoming NEET (Young people not in education, employment or training).

Providing impartial, balanced information aligned with DfE careers guidance.

Development

This policy has been developed and is reviewed annually by the Careers Lead and Line Manager 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. Leigh Academy Blackheath 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 Mr Hughes, Careers Lead. Mr Hughes may be contacted on the following:

Telephone: 020 81 040 888

Email: oliver.hughes@blackheath.latrust.org.uk

Grounds for granting requests for access

Access will be granted based on timetable availability, relevance to students' needs at specific transition points, ability to meet safeguarding requirements and alignment with the academy's careers programme.

Access will be given for providers to attend during school assemblies, timetabled Careers lessons, and Careers or Raising Aspirations events that Leigh Academy Blackheath is arranging as well as tutor time or drop down days. Students may also travel to visit another provider as part of the trip to be organised in partnership with Leigh Academy Blackheath.

Students may also attend external provider events as part of school-approved visits.

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

Leigh Academy Blackheath will provide an appropriate room or assembly hall to be used. All rooms have computers/Chromebooks, projectors and screens provided. Computer rooms can also be arranged. The Careers Lead or Careers Adviser will organise this, working closely with the provider to ensure the facilities are appropriate to the audience. Appropriate safeguarding checks will be carried out. Providers will be met and supervised by a member of the Careers Team who will facilitate. All visitors must comply with the academy's Safeguarding, Child Protection and Visitor procedures, and a member of staff will supervise all sessions.

Live/Virtual encounters

Leigh Academy Blackheath welcomes both in-person and virtual encounters from providers. Virtual sessions will be hosted using school approved platforms and may be broadcast into classrooms or the lecture theatre for assemblies.

Technical checks will be arranged in advance.

Parents and Carers

Parents and carers are encouraged to engage with Leigh Academy Blackheath's careers programme and may be invited to attend provider events where appropriate.

Relevant information will also be shared via the school website, newsletters and various communication channels.

Management

The Careers Lead coordinates all provider requests and reports to a member of the Senior Leadership Team. Provider encounters are monitored to ensure they are meaningful, impartial and meet statutory requirements.

Complaints Procedure

Complaints regarding provider access should be raised with:

Mr O'Donnell, Assistant Principal with oversight of careers

Email: info@blackheath.latrust.org.uk

If unresolved, the matter will be escalated to the Principal, Ms Smith, in line with the school's Complaints Procedure which can be found [here](#).

Monitoring review and evaluation

This statement is reviewed annually by the Careers Leader and Senior Leadership Team. The evaluation considers student feedback, provider feedback, alignment with Gatsby Benchmarks, Compass+ tracking and the extent to which statutory duties are met.

Any necessary revisions will be published on the school website.

Policy Coordinator: Ms Smith

Policy Reviewed: November 2025

Appendix

Examples of providers who have been invited into Leigh Academy Blackheath:

- PwC (Career pathways at PwC)
- Amazon (Apprenticeship pathways)
- Halley Academy (Post-16 pathways e.g. T Levels)
- Leigh Stationers' Academy (Post-16 pathways e.g. A Levels)

Examples of destinations of previous pupils from Leigh Academy Blackheath:

- Degree Apprenticeship e.g. PwC Accountancy at Queen Mary, University of London
- Russell Group Universities e.g. Politics and International Studies at University of Warwick
- Further Education e.g. Foundation Diploma in Art & Design at Ravensbourne University