



Provider Access Policy

Policy Name	Provider Access Policy
Policy Group	Curriculum Policy
Policy Produced By	M Mills
Date Policy Produced	July 2026
Date SLT Agreed	July 2027
Date Governors Approved	
Date of Next Review	
Linked or Related Policies	• Careers • Safeguarding & Child Protection • Equality & Diversity • SEND
Named Persons in this policy	M Mills

Introduction

This policy statement sets out St. Bernard's Catholic High School's arrangements for managing the access of providers to every student in Years 7 – 11 to discuss both the academic and non-academic routes that are available to them as part of a holistic careers programme, enabling all our students to make an informed choice about their post 16 provision. This is evaluated and measured regularly against the careers standards of the Gatsby benchmarks using the Compass plus assessment framework and evaluation with students and teachers as part of our careers programme.

St. Bernard's actively seeks to build relationships with 6th form schools, colleges, apprenticeship providers, universities and employers as we plan our careers programme and "Beyond Bernard's" activities throughout the school year to ensure all our students have access to the most current and up to date careers information at key transition points and that providers have multiple opportunities to speak to students and their parents across Years 7 -11 to offer information on vocational, technical and apprenticeship qualifications and pathways.

St. Bernard's ensures that their staff involved in personal guidance and pastoral support and are up to date with their knowledge through a programme of Continuing Professional Development.

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

St Bernard's Catholic High School 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. St Bernard's Catholic High 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.

St Bernard's Catholic High School 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

St Bernard's Catholic High School's 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).

Development

This policy has been developed and is reviewed annually by the Careers Lead and the Headteacher, 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. St Bernard's Catholic High School is committed to encouraging all students to make decisions about their future based on impartial information.

Student Entitlement

St Bernard's fully supports the statutory requirement for students to have direct access to other providers of further education training, technical 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

or apprenticeships. This will be done through assemblies, careers presentation, in designated careers weeks, in addition to providers attending careers events throughout the school year.

Pupil Offer

We have a range of flexible programmes to ensure our students and parents have access to a full careers programme of information through assemblies, drop-in lunch times, parents' evenings, careers fairs, apprenticeship workshops, newsletters and Beyond Bernard's week activities. Parental involvement is encouraged, and parents may be invited to attend the events to meet the providers.

Providers who have been invited into St Bernard's Catholic High School to date include:

Furness College	Siemens-energy
Barrow Sixth Form College	BAE
Kendal College	Glaxo
Myerscough College	Oxley
Hello Future	Spirit Energy
University of Cumbria	Orsted
Fitzwilliam College Cambridge University	Cumbria Tourism
Newcastle University	Department for Work and Pensions
Gen2	Sellafield
NHS	Army
Lancaster University	

Destinations of previous pupils from St Bernard's Catholic High School include:

Barrow Sixth Form College
Furness College
Kendal College
UVHS Sixth Form College
Apprenticeships
Armed Forces
CORE

Opportunities for Access

Any provider is welcome to contact our Careers Lead to discuss what they can provide for our students and how we can best accommodate your support. Example activities include: Careers Fair, World of Work Preparation, Career Insight events, I Love my Job, Speed Networking and Mock Interviews.

A number of events, integrated into the school careers programme, will offer providers an opportunity to come into school to speak to pupils and/or their parents:



Year Group	Autumn Term	Spring Term	Summer Term
8	Lancaster University Discover Programme	Programme of assemblies led by a range of local employers and Further Education providers. Lancaster University Discover Programme	Programme of assemblies led by a range of local employers and Further Education providers.
9	Careers Fair for all Year 9 students and parents.	KS4 options event. Futures Workshop – exploring range of career paths. Programme of assemblies led by a range of local employers and Further Education providers. Lancaster University Discover Programme	Programme of assemblies led by a range of local employers and Further Education providers. Speed Networking. Lancaster University Discover Programme
10	Careers Fair for all GCSE students and parents. Programme of careers and Further Education talks during assemblies and PSHE – throughout year.	Programme of careers and Further Education talks during PSHE – throughout year. NHS Career Event. Offsite BAE information events. BAE Travelling Roadshow. Mock interviews led by a range of local employers and Further Education providers.	Programme of careers and Further Education talks during PSHE – throughout year. Taster days at Furness College, Barrow Sixth Form College and other colleges.
11	Careers Fair for all GCSE students and parents. Programme of careers insight and Further Education talks during PSHE – throughout year. BAE Early Career Presentation	Programme of careers insight and Further Education talks during PSHE – throughout year. BAE Application and Interview Preparation Workshops BAE Parent and Child drop-in.	



Any provider wishing to access or provide IAG to our students as part of our careers programme will be supported by our teaching staff throughout their visit and never left unattended. We will make available appropriate resources to support provider presentations, which will be discussed and agreed in advance to ensure material meets our quality assurances and security measures.

Providers are welcome to leave copies of their prospectus' or course literature and we will distribute them to relevant students and have them available in our careers library. Students can drop in to our careers library to access this information or will be provided relevant information in their careers guidance interviews.

We can promote and distribute details of careers and apprenticeship literature and vacancies to all relevant students and parents through direct Email, Arbor, google classroom and our social media.

Management of Provider Access Requests

Providers wishing to request access should contact: *Mr M Mills, Careers Lead*
Telephone: 01229 814560
Email mmills@stbernardsschool.uk

Any provider complaints should be raised to Mr Mills, via email: mmills@stbernardsschool.uk

Grounds for granting requests for access

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

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

St Bernard's will provide an appropriate room or assembly hall to be agreed. All classrooms have computers, projectors and screens provided. Computer rooms can also be arranged. The Careers Leader or Careers Adviser will organise this, working closely with the provider, in advance, 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.

Live/Virtual encounters

St Bernard's 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.



St Bernard's

CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

— *LABORARE EST ORARE* —