




**Bishop Wilkinson**  
Catholic Education Trust  
Through Christ, in Partnership

## Provider Access Policy Statement

Signed by the Chair	
First Date Approved by Local Governing Committee	June 2024
Statutory Policy	Yes
Required on Website	Yes
Review Period	Annual
Reviewed by	Local Governing Committee
Review Date	November 2025
Next Review Date	November 2026

## **(To include The Department of Education, July 2021: “Baker Clause” and the Provider Access Legislation, January 2023)**

### **Rationale**

High quality careers education and guidance in school 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 Leonard’s Catholic 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 Leonard’s Catholic 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 Leonard’s Catholic 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 Leonard’s Catholic School’s policy for Access to other education and training providers has the following aims:

1. To develop the knowledge and awareness of our students of all career pathways available to them, including technical qualifications and apprenticeships.
2. 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.
3. To reduce drop out from courses and avoid the risk of students becoming NEET (Young people not in education, employment or training).

### **Student Entitlement**

St Leonard’s Catholic School 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 in assemblies throughout the year, in addition to providers attending careers events at school or at each Trust school, such as our Careers Fair, the Apprenticeship Show and workshops.

### **Development**

This policy has been developed and is reviewed annually by the Careers Leader and is 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 Leonard's Catholic 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 Mrs Aisling Stewart, Careers Leader. Mrs Stewart may be contacted by telephone or contact form, accessed here [Careers – St Leonard's Catholic School, Durham](#) Tel: 0191 384 8575.

## **Grounds for granting requests for access**

Access will be given for providers to attend during school assemblies, timetabled PSHE sessions and careers events that St Leonard's Catholic School is arranging. Students may also travel to visit another provider as part of the trip to be organised in partnership with St Leonard's Catholic School.

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

St Leonard's Catholic School will provide an appropriate location. All rooms have computers, projectors and screens provided. The Careers Leader 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 St Leonard's Catholic School staff who will facilitate.

## **Live/Virtual encounters**

St Leonard's Catholic School will consider live online encounters with providers where requested, and these may be broadcast into classrooms or to year groups. 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 their senior management line manager.

## **Complaints Procedure**

Any complaints about this policy should be raised in the first instance to Alex McVeigh, email: [Careers – St Leonard's Catholic School, Durham](#)

If necessary, Mrs Stewart will raise the complaint to the Headteacher of St Leonard's Catholic School.

## **Monitoring review and evaluation**

The Policy is monitored and evaluated annually via the Leadership Team.

## **Appendix**

### **Providers who have been invited into St Leonard's Catholic School to date include:**

New College Durham

Learning Curve Group

SETA

Northern School of Art

Bishop Auckland College

Newcastle College

Sunderland College

Gateshead College

EMG Solicitors

UTC South Durham

East Durham College

### **Destinations of previous pupils from St Leonard's Catholic School include:**

New College Durham

Durham Johnston Comprehensive

SETA

Northern School of Art

Newcastle College

Sunderland College

Gateshead College

UTC South Durham

Durham Sixth Form