



STRIVE - THRIVE - ACHIEVE

Provider Access Policy Statement

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1 Introduction

This document sets out the school's arrangements for managing the access of providers to pupils at the school for the purpose of giving them information about the provider's education or training offer.

This provider access is a key mechanism for the school to further help learners understand and take up not only apprenticeships, but wider technical education options including T-Levels, vocational qualifications, Further Education pathways and Higher Technical Qualifications, enabling pupils to make informed decisions regarding their future progression.

This policy statement complies with the school's legal obligations under Sections 42A, 42B, 45 and 45A of the Education Act 1997, as amended by the Skills and Post-16 Education Act 2022, Section 72 of the Education and Skills Act 2008, The School Information (England) Regulations 2008, and Department for Education statutory guidance including Careers Guidance and Access for Education and Training Providers (updated June 2026).

This policy continues to support the statutory requirements established through the Department for Education July 2021 Baker Clause guidance and the Provider Access Legislation introduced in January 2023.

2 Rationale

High quality careers education and guidance is critical to young people's futures.

It helps prepare pupils for adult life and the workplace by providing a clear understanding of the world of work, employment pathways and future education opportunities that may be engaging, rewarding and suited to individual aspirations.

Effective careers provision supports pupils to develop confidence and independence, build career management and employability skills, understand future education and training pathways, make informed decisions regarding transition beyond compulsory education, and achieve positive destination outcomes and sustained progression.

Danesgate Community recognises that many learners require highly personalised support when planning future transitions and that career development should reflect individual needs, aspirations and long-term independence outcomes.

3 Links with other policies

- This policy supports and is underpinned by key school policies including:
 - Careers Education Information Advice and Guidance Policy
 - Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy
 - Equality, Diversity and Accessibility Policy
 - SEND Policy
 - Curriculum Policy

4 Commitment

Danesgate Community is committed to ensuring there is an opportunity for a range of education and training providers to access pupils for the purpose of informing them about approved technical education qualifications, apprenticeships and wider progression opportunities.

The school recognises its statutory duty under the Baker Clause to ensure pupils have access to information about the full range of academic, technical and vocational progression routes available.

The school will ensure pupils receive impartial information regarding Further Education colleges, apprenticeship providers, technical education qualifications including T-Levels, Higher Technical Qualifications, vocational education pathways, independent training providers, supported internships where appropriate, employment pathways and specialist transition services.

Danesgate Community is committed to acting impartially and ensuring no bias is shown toward any particular education or training route.

All pupils will be supported to make informed decisions based upon individual strengths, aspirations and future goals.

5 Aims

- Danesgate Community's policy for access to education and training providers has the following aims:
 - To develop pupils' knowledge and awareness of all future career pathways available to them
 - To ensure pupils understand the full range of Post-16 progression opportunities
 - To support informed decision-making regarding education, employment and training
 - To provide access to technical education qualifications and apprenticeship opportunities
 - To reduce the risk of pupils becoming NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training)
 - To support successful transition outcomes and preparation for adulthood

6 Student Entitlement

Danesgate Community fully supports the statutory requirement for pupils to receive direct access to providers of technical education, vocational education, apprenticeships and alternative education pathways.

All pupils from Year 7 to Year 11 are entitled to find out about technical education qualifications and apprenticeship opportunities as part of the school's careers programme, hear from a range of local providers regarding future education and training options, access information regarding vocational qualifications and employment pathways, receive support in understanding applications and transition processes, participate in careers activities designed to support progression planning, and develop understanding of workplace expectations, employability skills and preparation for adulthood.

In line with statutory Provider Access Legislation and Baker Clause requirements, pupils will also have opportunities to attend two mandatory provider encounters during the first key phase (Years 8 and 9) and two mandatory provider encounters during the second key phase (Years 10 and 11).

In response to current Department for Education guidance and the national ambition for Modern Work Experience, Danesgate Community is committed to developing a progressive programme of meaningful workplace experiences which prepares pupils for future employment, independence and successful transition beyond school.

The school will work towards ensuring pupils have access to meaningful employer encounters across Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4, workplace experiences designed to develop confidence, communication, teamwork and employability skills, opportunities to explore different industries and occupations, experiences which support career readiness and informed future decision-making, and flexible personalised workplace experiences designed around individual learner needs and readiness for transition.

In line with current national guidance, the school will work towards providing at least one week of work experience activities during Years 7–9 and at least one week of work experience placements or equivalent workplace experiences during Years 10–11.

As a specialist setting, Danesgate Community recognises that workplace experiences may need to be flexible, personalised and adapted to individual pupil needs in order to ensure all learners can access meaningful experiences that support future progression.

The school will ensure provider encounters and workplace experiences are delivered in accordance with statutory guidance and integrated into the school's wider careers education programme.

7 Opportunities for access

Danesgate Community offers a comprehensive Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance programme through the wider curriculum and planned careers provision.

Provider access opportunities may include:

- Careers lesson
- Employer engagement activities
- College visits
- Apprenticeship awareness sessions
- Provider presentations
- Careers workshops
- Workplace awareness activities
- Small group transition planning sessions
- Organised visits to external providers

All access requests will be considered in line with school timetabling, curriculum planning, safeguarding procedures and pupil suitability.

8 Development

This policy has been developed and is reviewed annually by the Careers Leader (Chris Smith) and Senior Leadership Team in accordance with current Department for Education statutory guidance and recognised good practice.

The school reviews careers provision annually to evaluate effectiveness and ensure continued statutory compliance.

9 Equality and Diversity

Danesgate Community is committed to ensuring all pupils receive equal access to information regarding future education and training opportunities.

As a specialist setting, the school recognises that many pupils require highly individualised transition planning.

Provider encounters will support pupils with SEND, pupils with SEMH needs, pupils with EHCPs, pupils requiring alternative curriculum pathways, and pupils requiring adapted communication support.

Reasonable adjustments will be made wherever necessary.

10 Requests for access

Requests for access from education and training providers should be directed to Chris Smith, Careers Leader, via email at c.smith@danegstecommunity.org.uk.

Providers requesting access are expected to provide sufficient information regarding their organisation, the purpose of the proposed visit, the intended pupil group, preferred dates, the nature of the activities to be delivered, and any specialist equipment or resources required to support delivery.

All requests will be reviewed by the school to ensure that the proposed activity is appropriate, relevant to pupils' progression planning and consistent with safeguarding, curriculum and operational requirements.

11 Grounds for granting requests for access

Danesgate Community welcomes engagement from external providers whose services support the school's careers education programme and contribute positively to pupil progression planning.

Requests for access will be considered on an individual basis and may be approved or declined depending upon a range of factors including the relevance of the provision being offered, safeguarding considerations, curriculum planning, existing careers provision already scheduled, examination periods, health and safety requirements, staff capacity and the suitability of the proposed activity for the needs of pupils within the school.

The school reserves the right to prioritise provider access opportunities that are considered most beneficial to pupils and most closely aligned with individual transition planning and future destination outcomes.

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

Where access has been approved, Danesgate Community will provide suitable facilities appropriate to the nature of the planned activity.

This may include access to classrooms, meeting spaces, presentation equipment, ICT resources, small group teaching areas and opportunities for follow-up discussion with pupils where appropriate.

The Careers Leader will liaise directly with visiting providers in advance of the visit to ensure that facilities, equipment and logistical arrangements are suitable for the intended session.

All visits will operate in accordance with school safeguarding procedures and appropriate supervision arrangements will remain in place throughout the visit.

13 Live/Virtual encounters

Danesgate Community recognises that online engagement can provide valuable additional opportunities for pupils to access education and training providers.

Where appropriate, providers may deliver live presentations, virtual workshops, remote provider encounters, question and answer sessions or virtual workplace and college visits using online platforms.

All virtual encounters will be arranged in advance and appropriate technology compatibility checks and safeguarding procedures will be implemented to ensure sessions are safe, accessible and effective for pupils.

14 Parents and Carers

Danesgate Community recognises the important role that parents and carers play in supporting pupils as they make decisions regarding future education, training and employment pathways.

The school will seek to involve parents and carers wherever appropriate by sharing relevant provider information, signposting families to local careers opportunities and inviting parents and carers to participate in careers events where this supports transition planning.

The school values collaborative working with families and recognises the importance of ensuring that parents and carers are informed and involved in supporting successful pupil progression.

15 Management

The Careers Leader is responsible for coordinating all provider access requests and overseeing the implementation of this policy across the school.

Strategic oversight of the school's provider access arrangements sits with the Senior Leadership Team, who are responsible for ensuring compliance with statutory guidance and monitoring the effectiveness of careers provision.

The effectiveness of provider access arrangements will be reviewed through learner feedback, destination data, annual careers programme evaluation and ongoing monitoring of pupil transition outcomes in order to ensure that provision remains effective and continues to meet the needs of pupils.

16 Complaints Procedure

Any concerns or complaints regarding this policy or the arrangements for provider access should, in the first instance, be raised with Chris Smith, Careers Leader, via email at c.smith@danegstecommunity.org.uk. Chris Smith will raise the complaint to Chris Nichols, Headteacher at Danesgate Community School.

Appendix

Providers who have been invited into Danesgate School to date include:

- Askham Bryan College
- York College
- Blueberry Academy
- PINC College
- Choose2
- Tang Hall SMART
- Ad Astra
- Supported internship providers, Prospects and Project Choice
- Routes2success
- Opportunity College
- Army
- NYBEP
- ASK
- Huddersfield University

Destinations of previous pupils from Danesgate School include:

- Askham Bryan College
- York College
- Blueberry Academy
- PINC College
- Choose2
- Tang Hall SMART
- Ad Astra
- Supported internship providers, Prospects and Project Choice
- Routes2success
- Opportunity College
- Army