**Provider Access Policy**

The provider access legislation (occasionally referred to as the ‘Baker Clause’) requires all schools and academies to provide opportunities for a range of education and training providers to access all year 8 to 13 pupils to inform them about approved technical education qualifications and apprenticeships.

**Commitment**

Learning & Skills is committed to ensuring there is an opportunity for a range of education and training providers to access learners, to inform them about approved technical education qualifications and apprenticeships. Learning & Skills is fully aware of the responsibility to set learners 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.

Learning & Skills endeavours to ensure that all learners 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 learners to understand the full range of education and training options, and the Provider Access Legislation, January 2023).

**Aims**

The Learning & Skills policy for Access to other education and training providers has the following aims:

* To develop the knowledge and awareness of our learners 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 learners becoming NEET (Young people not in education, employment or training).

**Learner Entitlement**

Learning & Skills fully supports the statutory requirement for learners to have direct access to other providers of further education training, technical training and apprenticeships. Learning & Skills will comply with the new legal requirement to put on at least two encounters with providers of approved technical education qualifications or apprenticeships.

**Equality and Diversity**

Access to other providers is available and promoted to allow all learners to access information about other providers of further education and apprenticeships. Learning & Skills is committed to encouraging all learners to make decisions about their future based on impartial information.

**Requests for access**

Access requests should be directed to the Study Programme Manager. The Study Programme Manager may be contacted by telephone or email, at malcolm.bleasby@darlington.gov.uk, Tel 01325 406422.

**Grounds for granting requests for access**

Access will be given for providers to attend during the learning day (virtually or in person depending on the circumstances). Learners may also travel to visit another provider as part of the trip to be organised in partnership with Learning & Skills.

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

Learning & Skills will provide an appropriate room or centre to be agreed upon. All rooms have computers, projectors and screens provided. Computer rooms can also be arranged. The Mentor and Career Guidance Adviserwill 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 Learning & Skills Team who will facilitate.

**Live/Virtual encounters**

Learning & Skills 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 the compatibility of systems.

**Parents and Carers**

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

**Management**

The Mentor and Career Guidance Advisercoordinates all provider requests (with agreement and liaison with the Study Programme Manager) and is responsible to his/her senior management line manager. Details of provider encounters will be logged as appropriate by the Mentor, Study Programme Manager and/or other L&S staff as necessary.

**Monitoring review and evaluation**

The Policy is monitored and evaluated annually via the Quality Improvement Group.

**Appendix**

**Providers who have been invited into Learning & Skills to date include:**

East Durham College

Darlington College

Middlesbrough College

**Destinations of previous Learners from Learning & Skills of School include:**

Askham Bryan College

Darlington College

Middlesbrough College

UTC South Durham

East Durham College

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| Version | Issued | Next Review | Contact |
| 2 | April 2024 | April 2025 | Samantha Lindsay |