Provider Access Policy

Ellesmere Port Catholic High School

Approved by:	**Mrs L Henderson, Headteacher**
Lead of Review:	**Mr M Hughes, Assistant Headteacher**
Last reviewed on:	**July 2026**
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Catholic Social Teachings



Through our Provider Access Policy, we enable students to access opportunities that broaden their experiences, raise aspirations and prepare them for their future. We recognise the dignity of work and the importance of education for all, ensuring that every student has the opportunity to develop, grow and flourish. In doing so, we support our students to make informed choices about their future and to live out their lives through a Catholic lens, guided by faith, dignity and service.

Introduction

This policy statement sets out the school's arrangements for managing the access of providers to the school for the purpose of giving them information about the provider's education or training offer. This complies with the school's legal obligations under Section 42B of the Education Act 1997.

High-quality careers education, information, advice and guidance (CEIAG) is essential in preparing young people for their future. It enables students to develop a clear understanding of the world of work, including the range of pathways, qualifications, apprenticeships and careers available to them. It also supports students to develop the knowledge, skills, confidence and self-awareness needed to make informed decisions and achieve positive destinations.

At Ellesmere Port Catholic High School, we are committed to ensuring that every student has access to impartial and meaningful careers education and guidance. We recognise that young people have different strengths, interests and aspirations, and therefore ensure they are exposed to a wide range of post-16 and post-18 pathways, including A levels, apprenticeships, T Levels, Higher Technical Qualifications, further education, higher education and employment.

As the number and range of apprenticeship and technical education opportunities continues to grow, it is increasingly important that all students understand the full range of options available to them. Through our careers programme and Provider Access Policy, we work with education and training providers, employers and other partners to give students meaningful opportunities to explore these pathways, raise their aspirations and make informed choices about their future.

The school's careers programme is published on the school website and is reviewed annually.

Commitment

Ellesmere Port Catholic High School is committed to ensuring that all students have access to a broad and balanced range of education, training and career opportunities. We provide opportunities for a range of education and training providers to engage with our students and inform them about approved technical education qualifications, apprenticeships and other post-16 and post-18 pathways.

We recognise our responsibility to support every student in making informed decisions about their future, enabling them to progress successfully into further education, training and employment. Our careers programme is designed to ensure that students understand the full range of pathways available to them and are supported to identify routes that best match their individual strengths, interests, aspirations and career goals.

Ellesmere Port Catholic High School is committed to acting impartially and ensuring that students are not influenced towards any particular pathway. We recognise the value of both academic and technical routes and will ensure that students have access to information and experiences relating to A levels, apprenticeships, T Levels, Higher Technical Qualifications, further education, higher education and employment.

We endeavour to ensure that all students are aware of the routes available to develop higher-level skills and have meaningful opportunities to engage with education and training providers. This commitment reflects the Department for Education's guidance on the **"Baker Clause"** and the **Provider Access Legislation**, which require schools to ensure that students understand the full range of education and training options available to them.

Aims

Ellesmere Port Catholic High School's Provider Access Policy has the following aims:

- To develop students' knowledge and understanding of the full range of career and education pathways available to them, including academic routes, technical qualifications, apprenticeships, T Levels and Higher Technical Qualifications.
- To provide students with meaningful opportunities to engage with education and training providers, enabling them to explore different pathways and make informed decisions about their future before making important post-16 and post-18 choices.
- To ensure that all students have access to impartial information, advice and guidance about the full range of opportunities available to them, regardless of their intended pathway.
- To raise students' aspirations and support them in identifying pathways that reflect their individual strengths, interests and career goals.
- To support successful transitions from school into further education, training, apprenticeships, higher education or employment, helping to reduce the risk of students dropping out of courses or becoming NEET (not in education, employment or training).
- To support our Catholic ethos by ensuring that every student is valued as an individual and encouraged to recognise their dignity, talents and potential, enabling them to make positive contributions to society and the world of work.

Pupil entitlement

All pupils in years 8 to 13 are entitled:

- to find out about technical education qualifications and apprenticeships opportunities, as part of a careers programme which provides information on the full range of education and training options available at each transition point;
- to hear from a range of local providers about the opportunities they offer, including technical education and apprenticeships – through options events, assemblies and group discussions and taster events;
- to understand how to make applications for the full range of academic and technical courses.

For pupils of compulsory school age these encounters are mandatory and there will be a minimum of two encounters for pupils during the 'first key phase' (year 8 to 9) and two encounters for pupils during the 'second key phase' (year 10 to 11). For pupils in the 'third key phase' (year 12 to 13), particularly those that have not yet decided on their next steps, there are two more provider encounters available during this period, which are optional for pupils to attend.

These provider encounters will be scheduled during the main school hours and the provider will be given a reasonable amount of time to, as a minimum:

- share information about both the provider and the approved technical education qualification and apprenticeships that the provider offers;
- explain what career routes those options could lead to;
- provide insights into what it might be like to learn or train with that provider (including the opportunity to meet staff and pupils from the provider);
- answer questions from pupils.

Meaningful provider encounters

One encounter is defined as one meeting/session between pupils and one provider. We are committed to providing meaningful encounters to all pupils using the Making it meaningful checklist. Meaningful online engagement is also an option, and we are open to providers that are able to provide live online engagement with our pupils. The school will ensure pupils encounter a wide range of education and training providers representing different sectors and progression routes.

Previous providers

In previous terms/years we have invited the following providers from the local area to speak to our pupils:

- Cheshire College South and West
- Wirral Metropolitan College
- Reaseheath College
- TTE
- The NHS
- Chester University
- Northumbria University

Working with local employers

Local employers are encouraged to engage with the schools career programme, particularly (but not exclusively) where Apprenticeships and other Technical qualifications are key to your business. We have worked with a range of employers at EPCHS including:

- Altimex
- Bank of America
- CCSW
- Chester Zoo
- Countess of Chester Hospital
- Innospec
- TTE

Destinations of our pupils

Last year our year 11 pupils moved to range of providers in the local area after school including:

- School sixth form
- Sixth form college
- Further Education providers
- Full time training
- Apprenticeships

These were spread across the following sectors:

- Managerial and Professional
- Secretarial/Clerical
- Vehicle trades
- A range of other sectors

Last year our Year 13 pupils had a range of providers in the local area and further afield including:

- Edge Hill University
- Chester University
- Keele University
- Huddersfield University
- The University of Edinburgh
- Staffordshire University
- Toyota Motor Company
- University of Lancaster
- John Moores University
- The University of Sheffield
- Hertford College, Oxford University
- Cardiff University
- Durham University
- BAE Systems
- Salford University

- Bangor University
- The University of York
- York St John's University

The school monitors and analyses student destination data annually to evaluate the effectiveness of the careers programme.

Management of provider access requests

A provider wishing to request access should contact Mike Hughes, Assistant Head for Personal Development by email. m.hughes@epchs.co.uk.

Opportunities for access

The school offers the six provider encounters required by law (In bold below) and a number of additional events, integrated into the school careers programme. We will offer providers an opportunity to come into school to speak to pupils or their parents or carers. Please speak to our Careers Leader to identify the most suitable opportunity for you.

Key Stage	Year	Provider Type
3	**7 – HT5**	**ITP (NHS)**
3	**8 – HT4**	**1 hour presentation from local providers of Apprenticeships and T Levels**
3	**9 – HT3**	**Apprenticeship Providers Panel (including employers and training providers)**
4	**10 – HT2** **10 – HT6**	**Attending local careers fair (FE colleges, 6th Forms, Apprenticeship providers)** **Work Experience**
4	**11 – HT3**	**Post-16 Trial day (including providers of T Levels and Apprenticeships)**
5	**12**	**Ellesmere Port Apprenticeships Fair**
5	**12/13**	**Ellesmere Port Apprenticeships Fair**

Grounds for Granting Requests for Access

Ellesmere Port Catholic High School is committed to providing students with meaningful opportunities to engage with a wide range of education and training providers.

Access will be granted to providers where the proposed activity supports the school's careers programme and enables students to develop their understanding of post-16 and post-18 pathways. This may include opportunities to attend:

- School assemblies and year-group presentations.
- Timetabled Careers, Personal Development or Life lessons.
- Careers, Apprenticeship and Raising Aspirations events.
- Employer and provider engagement activities.
- Parents' and carers' information events, where appropriate.
- Workshops, talks and activities linked to specific career sectors or pathways.

Students may also visit education and training providers as part of organised trips and activities undertaken in partnership with Ellesmere Port Catholic High School.

Requests for access will be considered by the Careers Leader in line with the school's Provider Access Policy, safeguarding requirements and the needs of the students involved. The school will seek to ensure that students are given access to a broad and impartial range of providers and pathways.

Details of Premises or Facilities to be Provided to a Person Who Is Given Access

Ellesmere Port Catholic High School will provide an appropriate room, classroom or assembly hall for provider activities, depending on the nature and size of the audience.

Where appropriate, facilities may include:

- Computers or laptops.
- Projectors and interactive screens.
- Internet access.
- Computer rooms.
- Suitable presentation and workshop facilities.

The Careers Leader or a member of the Careers Team will work closely with the provider in advance to ensure that the facilities and arrangements are appropriate for the intended audience and activity.

All providers will be required to comply with the school's safeguarding and visitor procedures. Appropriate safeguarding checks will be undertaken where required. Providers will be welcomed and supervised by a member of the Careers Team or another designated member of staff throughout their visit, as appropriate.

The school will make reasonable arrangements to support providers in delivering meaningful and engaging activities for students.

Live and Virtual Encounters

Ellesmere Port Catholic High School recognises the value of live and virtual encounters in providing students with access to a wider range of education and training providers.

The school will consider requests for live online encounters where these support the school's careers programme and provide students with meaningful information about education, training, apprenticeships and career pathways.

Virtual sessions may be delivered directly to classrooms, groups of students or the school assembly hall. Where appropriate, sessions may also be made available to students who are unable to attend in person.

Technology checks will be carried out in advance to ensure that the provider's systems are compatible with the school's facilities and that the session can be delivered effectively.

All virtual encounters will be subject to the school's safeguarding, online safety and acceptable-use procedures. A member of school staff will facilitate or supervise the session as appropriate.

Providers are welcome to leave a copy of their prospectus or other relevant course literature at the Library, which is managed by the school librarian. This is available to all pupils at lunch and break times. Providers are also welcome to ask for literature to be shared with Sixth Form students in the Silent Study area.