



Special Partnership Trust



CAREERS PROVIDER ACCESS POLICY

Date Last Reviewed: February 2026

Review Date: February 2028



Special Partnership Trust

Introduction:

This policy statement sets out our Trust and school's arrangements for managing the access of providers to students at our schools 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.

1. Aims

This policy statement aims to set out our Trust and school's arrangements for managing the access of education and training providers to students for the purpose of giving them information about their offer. It sets out:

- Procedures in relation to requests for access
- The grounds for granting and refusing requests for access
- Details of premises or facilities to be provided to a person who is given access

2. Statutory requirements

Schools are required to ensure that there is an opportunity for a range of education and training providers to access students in years 8 to 13 for the purposes of informing them about approved technical education, qualifications or apprenticeships.

Schools must also have a policy statement that outlines the circumstances in which education and training providers will be given access to these students.

This is outlined in section 42B of the [Education Act 1997](#).

This policy shows how our Trust and schools comply with these requirements.

Pupil entitlement:

In accordance to the DfE guidance we recognise all students in years 8-13 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;
- 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;
- understand how to make applications for the full range of academic and technical courses

To secure such aims, the Careers Education Coordinator will work with the Head Teacher to ensure all speakers provide appropriate information, advice and guidance in relation to post school opportunities when addressing our students, parents/ carers. Any literature shared in relation to such visits will be scrutinised to secure relevance in the information contained.

The school will ensure through its website that all information shared will be published for future information/ access.

May 2025 updates to the Careers Guidance in schools, (in relation to Section 42B of The Education Act 1997) now state:

Section 42B (Baker Clause) for Special Schools

1. Expanded Access Requirements

- Schools must now provide **at least six encounters** with providers of technical education and apprenticeships for pupils in **Years 8 to 13**.
- This includes **community or foundation special schools** (excluding hospital schools).

2. Statutory Guidance from the DfE

- The **DfE’s statutory guidance** (updated May 2025) clarifies that **special schools** must:
 - Allow access to a **range of providers**.
 - Publish and follow a **provider access policy statement**, (this document)
 - Ensure pupils with **EHCPs aged 19–25** also receive guidance. **3. Support and Monitoring**
- The DfE has introduced a **“ladder of support and intervention”** to help schools comply.
- **Ofsted** now includes compliance with Section 42B in its **inspection framework**. Non-compliance can affect the **personal development judgement**.

Management of provider access requests

Procedure:

Name	Job Title	Contact - Tel/email
XXX	XXX	XXX

Organisation for access:

EHCP:

Our schools will fully consider/acknowledge the aspirations outlined within students ‘My Views’ document used to inform the EHCP process; using such aspirations teachers within each key stage will identify opportunities which enable students to find out further information/make visits to work based providers from Key Stage 4 (where these provide meaning) to provide our students and their families with further information, advice and guidance.

From Year 11/ 13* (*delete as appropriate*) External Careers Advisor will attend all EHCP reviews offering students and their families’ information in regard to future options – e.g. – colleges of further education – college prospectus/course information. In Year 11/ 14* (*delete as appropriate*) colleges of FE will be invited to attend all student annual reviews arranging visits/interviews with students based upon the student choice made.

Additionally, several events, integrated into our schools' careers programme, will offer providers an opportunity to come into school to speak to pupils and/or their parents/carers: With the LGB approval the following planned events will take place over each academic year; evaluation of such events will be obtained via:

- Parent/carer views (where applicable) **APPENDIX A**
- Student views **APPENDIX B**

The following table is an example of the type of offer that schools provide – **individual school offers are available from each of the schools and will vary according to the schools' designation and pupil needs and interests**

Year group	Autumn Term	Spring Term	Summer Term
Key Stage 3 (each year group)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Celebrations day – ex-student(s) • College themed assembly / visit • Employer encounter(s) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Careers and Aspirations assembly • Careers Fair • 'Your child's future' event • Employer encounter(s) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Careers and Aspirations assembly • Skills South West • Employer encounter(s)
Key Stage 4 (Yr 10)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Celebrations day – ex-student(s) • College themed assembly / visit • Preparing for college - Choices • Employer encounter(s) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Careers and Aspirations assembly • Careers Fair • 'Your child's future' event • Employer encounter(s) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Careers and Aspirations assembly • Let's meet our careers advisor – CSW class visit • Skills South West • Employer encounter(s)
Key Stage 4 (Yr 11)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Celebrations day – ex-student(s) • College themed assembly / visit • Preparing for college – Transitions • Game-changer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Careers and Aspirations assembly • Careers Fair • 'Your child's future' event • Game-changer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Careers and Aspirations assembly • Let's meet our careers advisor – CSW class visit • Skills South West



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employer encounter(s) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work experience • Employer encounter(s) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Game-changer • Employer encounter(s)
Key Stage 5 (Yr 12)*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Celebrations day – ex-student(s) • College themed assembly / visit • Preparing for college – Choices • Game Changer • Employer encounter(s) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Careers and Aspirations assembly • Careers Fair • ‘Your child’s future’ event • Visit the job centre • Game Changer • Employer encounter(s) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Careers and Aspirations assembly • Let’s meet our careers advisor – CSW class visit • Skills South West • Game Changer • Employer encounter(s)
Key Stage 5 (Yr 13)*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Celebrations day – ex-student(s) • College themed assembly / visit • CSW support • Preparing for college – Transitions • Game Changer • Employer encounter(s) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Careers and Aspirations assembly • Careers Fair • CSW support • ‘Your child’s future’ event • Visit the job centre • Game Changer • Employer encounter(s) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Careers and Aspirations assembly • CSW support • Skills South West • Game Changer • Employer encounter(s)
Key Stage 5 (Yr 14)*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Celebrations day – ex-student(s) • College themed assembly / visit • CSW support • Preparing for college – Transitions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Careers and Aspirations assembly • Careers Fair • CSW support • ‘Your child’s future’ event 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Careers and Aspirations assembly • Skills South West • Game Changer • Employer encounter(s)



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Game Changer • Employer encounter(s) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visit the job centre • Game Changer • Employer encounter(s) 	
--	---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--

*Work experience and college links are planned specifically for individual pupils within the context of individual need and the school curriculum offer.

PARENT LIAISON WORKER:

The Parent Liaison worker or similar staff member with family-facing responsibility will attend all career conventions/ events where parents attend and will be responsible for examining questionnaire outcomes (data); this process is supported by the agreed aims of the Parent Liaison worker (or similar staff member with family-facing responsibility), which enables effectiveness in communicating with parents/students and facilitating information gathering/ sharing of information by the school.

Equality of opportunity:

We recognise that all students and their families have the same entitlement to opportunities to access training providers; using information obtained from students EHCPs and the views of families the school will share provider access information which is deemed appropriate.

Safeguarding:

The SPT Prevent policy outlines the following information to ensure any visitors to the school are aware of measures the school will take to safeguarded our pupils/ students:

Visitors to the school are required to sign in/ out; all visitors are provided with information relating to safeguarding and child protection policies and procedures on arrival at the school, this information provides the procedure to follow if they are concerned about any aspect of child welfare.

Visitors who are invited to speak to pupils will be informed about our Prevent policy and relevant vetting checks are undertaken. We undertake due diligence to ensure that visiting speakers are appropriate. Speakers will be supervised at all times and will not be allowed to speak to children without a member of staff being present.

Each school 'Access to training providers' policy outlines the following information; all schools will adhere to the information contained:

- The careers education coordinator will work with the Head Teacher to ensure all speakers provide appropriate information, advice and guidance in relation to post



school opportunities when addressing our students, parents/ carers. Any literature shared in relation to such visits will be scrutinised to secure relevance in the information contained.

Any requests from speakers who wish to attend the school to share information outside of the school offer must be made in writing to the Head Teacher; requests must outline purpose/ content of information which will be shared. It will be the role of the Head Teacher and SLT to manage and respond to such requests outlining reasons if a request has been declined. If the HT/ SLT wants further clarification they will contact the ED of the SPT; if the SLT consider any such requests may impact upon safeguarding they will contact the LADO for immediate further advice/ guidance.

Premises and facilities:

The school will:





- Make the main hall, classrooms or private meeting rooms available for discussions between the provider and students, as appropriate to the activity
- Make available AV and other specialist equipment to support provider presentations. This will all be discussed and agreed in advance of the visit with the Careers coordinator
- Publish all information received upon the school's website

Providers are welcome to leave a copy of their prospectus or other relevant course literature with the school; these will be stored in the school's library which is available to students at lunch times/structured teaching and learning sessions.

APPENDIX A:

Parent/Carer View – Provider Access evening XXXX School		
Date:	Careers programme focus/speaker:	
Venue:		
Please tick the appropriate statement:		
We/I found the information useful	We/I found the information fairly useful	We/I did not find the information useful at all
Is there any further information you would like (Please state):		
Signed:		

APPENDIX B:

Student View – Provider Access evening XXXX School		
Date:	Topic:	
Please tick the appropriate statement:		
I am very interested 	I am quite interested but want to find our more 	I am not interested at all 
Is there any more information you would like (Please state): 		
Signed:		