



St Francis of Assisi Catholic College: Provider Access Policy

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.

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.

Previous providers



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

- Juniper Training/SPV
- Walsall College
- BMET College
- PWC
- Birmingham City University
- In-Comm Training
- Sandwell College
- Nova Training
- ESPFA (Football Academy)
- Newman University

Partnership

We have recently formed a working partnership with Cooper Parry Britain's largest accountant and tax adviser business who provide a bespoke student outreach programme for the school with tailored activities and workshops to meet the specific needs and interests of target student groups from year 8 upwards.

Destinations of our pupils

year 11 pupils moved to range of providers in the local area after school: 90 students in total moved to a vocational or technical education route, including:

- Walsall College (38 students)
- South Staffordshire College (15 students)
- BMET College (19 students)
- University College Birmingham (6 students)
- Football Education Programmes (3 students)
- Sandwell College (2 students)
- Apprenticeships (5 students)
- Training Provider/ Study programme (1 student)
- Football Scholarship (1 student)

Year 13 pupils moved to range of employers in the local area after school: 15 students progressed to apprenticeships ranging from Level 4 to Level 7. Whilst 5 students went into Employment.



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Management of provider access requests

Procedure

A provider wishing to request access should contact: Zoe Harris, Careers Lead, zharris@stfrancis.cc or Leanne Blackmore, SLT Careers Lead, lblackmore@stfrancis.cc

Opportunities for access

The school offers the **six provider encounters required by the legislation** 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 Adviser / Leader to identify the most suitable opportunity for you.

Premises and facilities

The school will make the main hall, classrooms or private meeting rooms available for discussions between the provider and pupils, as appropriate to the activity. The school will also 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 Adviser or Careers Leader.

Meaningful online engagement is also an option and we are open to providers that are able to provide live online engagement with our pupils.

Providers are welcome to leave a copy of their prospectus or other relevant course literature at the Careers Office, which is managed by the school Careers Adviser. The Careers Office is available to all pupils at lunch and break times.

Complaints:

Any complaints with regards to provider access can be raised following the school complaints procedure or directly with The Careers & Enterprise Company via provideraccess@careersandenterprise.co.uk

Reviewed Date: September 2025

Next review: September 2026