

ST MARGARET WARD CATHOLIC ACADEMY

Provider Access Policy



Let us remember we are in the presence of God "

Policy Adopted	Next Review	Author
May 2026	May2027	Mrs Poole

**Provider Access Policy
St Margaret Ward Catholic Academy**

“Preparing all our pupils to fulfil their God-given vocation with the best possible careers education and guidance.”

Introduction

At St Margaret Ward Catholic Academy, we are committed to supporting all our pupils to achieve their God-given potential. We provide high-quality, impartial careers education and guidance so that pupils can make informed and ambitious choices about their futures. All learners are prepared for progression into further education, employment or training.

“Work is a good thing for man – a good thing for his humanity – because through work man not only transforms nature, adapting it to his own needs, but he also achieves fulfilment as a human being.”

St Pope John Paul II

This policy statement sets out the school’s arrangements for managing the access of education and training providers to pupils for the purpose of informing them about approved technical education qualifications and apprenticeships.

This policy complies with statutory duties under:

Section 42B of the Education Act 1997

The Technical and Further Education Act 2017

The Skills and Post-16 Education Act

DfE Statutory Guidance: Careers guidance and access for education and training providers (updated May 2025, in force for 2026) [gov.uk]

Pupil Entitlement

All pupils in Years 7 to 13 are entitled to impartial careers guidance and meaningful encounters with education and training providers.

In line with the updated Provider Access Legislation, pupils in Years 8–13 are entitled to a minimum of six provider encounters, delivered as follows:

Mandatory Provider Encounters

First key phase (Years 8 or 9)

Two encounters with approved providers

Mandatory for all pupils to attend

Second key phase (Years 10 or 11)

Two encounters with approved providers

Mandatory for all pupils to attend

Third key phase (Years 12 or 13)

Two encounters with approved providers.

Mandatory for the school to offer (attendance optional for pupils).

Encounters will:

Involve different providers, where reasonably possible.

Take place during the normal school day.

Be of reasonable duration to allow meaningful engagement.

Through these encounters, pupils are entitled to:

Learn about approved technical education qualifications, T Levels, Higher Technical Qualifications, and apprenticeships.

Understand the careers and labour market outcomes linked to these pathways.

Experience what learning or training with each provider is like.

Ask questions and hear responses from providers.

Understand how to apply for the full range of academic and technical routes, post-16 and post-18.

The school is committed to ensuring all encounters are meaningful, using the Careers & Enterprise Company's Making it Meaningful framework.

Management of Provider Access Requests

A provider wishing to request access should contact:

Mrs A. Poole

Vice Principial & Careers Leader

01782 883000

apoole1@smwca.org.uk

Requests should be made with reasonable notice and will be considered in line with:

The school's careers programme.

Safeguarding and equality responsibilities.

The requirement to offer a broad and balanced range of providers.

Access will not be refused on the basis of whether a provider competes with the school's own sixth-form or curriculum offer.

Opportunities for Provider Access

A range of opportunities are built into the school's annual careers programme, including:

Assemblies and year-group talks

Careers fairs

Curriculum-linked sessions
Options evenings and post-16/post-18 transition events
Small group or targeted interventions

These opportunities are reviewed annually and published on the school website. Parents, carers and employers are welcomed as partners in shaping and supporting the programme.

Premises and Facilities

The school will make available, as appropriate:

The main hall
Classrooms
Private meeting rooms

Audio-visual equipment and other specialist resources will be provided where required and agreed in advance. All arrangements will be coordinated through the Careers Leader or a designated member of the careers team.

Review and Monitoring

This policy and the wider careers programme are reviewed annually by:

The Careers Leader
The Careers Advisor
Senior leaders and relevant stakeholders

Review activities include:

Analysis of pupil voice
Evaluation of destination data
Assessment using the Compass Benchmark Tool to measure progress against the eight Gatsby Benchmarks.

An updated careers programme and provider access arrangements will then be published.

Date of Next Review
May 2027