

## **The Westgate School Provider Access Policy Statement**

**(To include The Department of Education, July 2021: “Baker Clause” and the Provider Access Legislation, January 2023)**

**Ownership: The Westgate School Slough**

**Date updated: September 2023**

### **Rationale**

High quality careers education and guidance in school or college is critical to young people’s futures. It helps to prepare them for the workplace by providing a clear understanding of the world of work including the routes to jobs and careers that they might find engaging and rewarding. It supports them to acquire the self-development and career management skills they need to achieve positive employment destinations. This helps students to choose their pathways, improve their life opportunities and contribute to a productive and successful economy.

As the number of apprenticeships rises every year, it becomes increasingly important that all young people have a full understanding of all the options available to them post-16 and post-18 including wider technical education options such as T-Levels and Higher Technical Qualifications.

### **Commitment**

The Westgate School is committed to ensuring there is an opportunity for a range of education and training providers to access students, for the purpose of informing them about approved technical education qualifications and apprenticeships. The Westgate School is fully aware of the responsibility to set students 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.

The Westgate School endeavours to ensure that all students 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 students to understand the full range of education and training options, and the Provider Access Legislation, January 2023).

### **Aims**

The Westgate School policy for access to other education and training providers has the following aims:

To develop the knowledge and awareness of our students of all career pathways available to them, including technical qualifications and apprenticeships. Daily triage meetings with all year groups and independent careers advisor personal guidance meetings and action plans in Years 11, 12 and 13.

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 students becoming NEET (Young people not in education, employment or training). Close contact with Slough Children First for RONI

## **Student Entitlement**

The Westgate School fully supports the statutory requirement for students to have direct access to other providers of further education training, technical training and apprenticeships. The school will comply with the new legal requirement to put on at least six encounters with providers of approved technical education qualifications or apprenticeships. This will be done in Tutor sessions, in National Apprenticeship Week and National Careers Week, in addition to providers attending careers events at school or at each Trust school. Alumni students factor heavily when sharing their career pathways and careers decision making. Students can access triage meetings with the careers leaders at any time and can be accompanied by parents. Regular sharing of apprenticeships weekly vacancies with year 11 and 13 students and parents creates questions and further investigation.

## **Development**

This policy has been developed and is reviewed annually by the Careers Leader and Line Manager (Miss N Yates – Assistant Head Teacher) based on current good practice guidelines by the Department for Education and research through working with employers and FE/HE providers.

## **Links with other policies**

It supports and is underpinned by key school policies including those for Careers, Child Protection, Equality and Diversity, and SEND.

## **Equality and Diversity**

Access to other providers is available and promoted to allow all students to access information about other providers of further education and apprenticeships. The Westgate School is committed to encouraging all students to make decisions about their future based on impartial information. The SEN careers link LSA supports EHCP students for all careers related trips, events in school and personal guidance interviews (Natalie Lake)

## **Requests for access**

Requests for access should be directed to Karen Green, Careers Leader. Telephone 01753 559882 or email, [klg@westgate.slough.sch.uk](mailto:klg@westgate.slough.sch.uk).

## **Grounds for granting requests for access.**

Access will be given for providers to attend during school assemblies, timetabled Careers or Personal Development lessons, Curriculum support and Careers or Raising Aspirations events that The Westgate School is arranging. Students may also travel to visit another provider including Colleges, other Sixth Form providers, Universities and employers offering apprenticeships as part of the trip to be organised in partnership with The Westgate School.

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

The Westgate School will provide an appropriate room or assembly hall to be agreed. All rooms have computers, projectors and screens provided. Computer rooms can also be arranged. The Careers Leader will 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 Careers Team who will facilitate. Visitors with an up-to-date DBS will wear a suitable lanyard throughout the visit. Visitors without an up-to-date DBS will be always accompanied by a staff member and wear the relevant lanyard.

### **Live/Virtual encounters**

The Westgate School will offer 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 compatibility of systems. Parents consent and attendance at non-school online events will be shared and encouraged.

### **Parents and Carers**

Parental involvement is encouraged, and parents may be invited to attend the events to meet the providers. Weekly email sharing of apprenticeship vacancies, college and University open days and provider support opportunities is always shared with relevant parents and students. Parent Engagement evenings half termly include a dedicated Careers session.

### **Management**

The Careers Leader coordinates all provider requests and is responsible to his/her senior management line manager.

### **Complaints Procedure**

Any complaints about this policy should be raised to Karen Green, email:  
klg@westgate.slough.sch.uk

Karen Green will raise the complaint to Miss N Yates – Assistant Head Teacher –  
ny@westgate.slough.sch.uk

### **Monitoring review and evaluation**

The Policy is monitored and evaluated annually via the Senior Leadership Team. The Careers Leader is responsible for updating the SLT on Careers developments and progress, reporting destinations and feedback from parents, providers and employers.

***Policy Coordinator:*** Karen Green

***Policy Reviewed:*** September 2023

### **Appendix**

**Providers who have been invited into The Westgate School to date include:**

Forest Group Colleges	Henley College
Activate Learning	Learning to Work
Ask Apprenticeships	UCB/Upskill Me
Slough Borough Council	Herts University
NHS Berkshire	Royal Holloway University
United Select Academy	Mars
SEGRO	GSK
Virgin Media O2	Osborne
Oxbridge Universities Trust	
Numerous Westgate Alumni students	

**Destinations of previous pupils from The Westgate School include:**

Forest Group Colleges – Langley, Strode's, Windsor, BCA

Activate Learning Colleges including T Levels – Reading, Bracknell, Wokingham

Numerous Level 3 Apprenticeships including Mars, Osborne, O2, Ford, Thames Fiat, GSK, Slough Borough Council, CCS Media, Softcat and British Airways.

Westgate and other local school Sixth Forms (subject choices)

UCAS Degree courses including Cambridge and Oxford and Russel Group.

Higher Level Apprenticeships including E&Y, PWC, HSBC, MOD, Mars, British Airways.