

Provider Access Policy Statement

Rainford High School



Policy Owner	Principal and Trustees
Scope of the Policy	This policy applies to all of the school community
Last reviewed by trustees	September 2026
Next review due	September 2027
Summary of key changes	Updated meaningful provider encounters that have been planned in for 2026-2027
Committee Responsible	

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 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.

2. PUPIL ENTITLEMENT

- 2.1 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.
- 2.2 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.
- 2.3 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.

3. MEANINGFUL PROVIDER ENCOUNTERS

- 3.1 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.
- 3.2 Meaningful online engagement is also an option, and we are open to providers that are able to provide live online engagement with our pupils.

4. PREVIOUS PROVIDERS

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

- BBC Careers
- Merseyside Police
- NHS
- Virgin Media/02
- Army Careers

5. MANAGEMENT OF PROVIDER ACCESS REQUESTS PROCEDURE

- 5.1 A provider wishing to request access should contact Laura Cross, Associate Assistant Principal – CEIAG, Transition and Progression, l.cross@rainford.org.uk

6. OPPORTUNITIES FOR ACCESS

- 6.1 The school offers the six provider encounters required by law (marked in bold text) and a number of additional events, integrated into the school careers programme. (See table below)

	Autumn Term	Spring Term	Summer Term
Year 8		St Helen's College – Apprenticeships and T Levels	
Year 9	Police Apprenticeships	Army Apprenticeships – January 20th	<i>No encounters – legislation requires to take place by 28 February if in year 9</i>
Year 10	Carmel College – T Level courses St Helens College - Apprenticeships		
Year 11	West Lancs College – T Level Courses Warrington and Royal Vale College – Apprenticeships		<i>No encounters – legislation requires to take place by 28 February if in year 11</i>
Year 12	Apprenticeship Show HE Employability Day I	UCAS Discovery Conference Employer delivered Employability Day II	HE visits and open days UCAS Employability Day III

	Liverpool University Scholars Programme		
Year 13	Post 18 Assembly with National Apprenticeship Service Subject specific sessions delivered by HE providers	Post 18 tutorials with HE workshops	<i>No encounters – legislation requires to take place by 28 February if in year 13</i>

6.2 We will offer providers an opportunity to come into school to speak to pupils or their parents or carers.

6.3 Please speak to our Associate Assistant Principal – Mrs Cross to identify the most suitable opportunity for you.

7. PREMISES AND FACILITIES

7.1 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.

7.2 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 Mrs Cross or a member of the team.

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

7.4 Providers are welcome to leave a copy of their prospectus or other relevant course literature at Reception.

8. COMPLAINTS

8.1 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