COMPASS
ACADEMY

Provider Access Strategy

September 2026

The Compass Academy

Date policy reviewed: September 2026
Date presented to Governors: September 2026
Person responsible for this policy: Personal Development Lead

THE COMPASS ACADEMY ALTERNATIVE PROVISION

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Introduction

This policy statement sets out the school's arrangements for managing the access of providers to pupils at the school for the purposes 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.

This policy should be read in conjunction with:

- The Careers Strategy
- Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy
- Curriculum Policy

Pupil entitlement

The Compass Academy strongly believes that excellent careers education, information, advice and guidance (CEIAG) together with meaningful life experiences e.g. vocational experience, employer talks and other related activities can support young people to reach well informed decisions and develop a comprehensive picture of the education and training options available beyond that of school.

The academy aims to provide a variety of opportunities for all of our pupils to access a range of providers to explore different future options including: academic options, sixth form and tertiary colleges and higher education institutions.

As part of the Careers Strategy, pupils in Years 7-9 are entitled:

- to find out about technical education qualifications and apprenticeship 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 evenings, assemblies and group discussions and taster events.
- to understand how to make applications for the full range of academic and technical courses.

Management of provider access requests

Procedure:

A provider wishing to request access should contact Mrs Murray, Heads PA in the first instance.

Telephone: 01482 331720 Email: d.murray@com.hslt.academy

Arrangements should then be followed up with Miss Emma Jackson, Personal Development Lead. Email: e.jackson1@com.hlt.academy

Providers will need to arrange to meet with the Academy's Personal Development Lead, Emma Jackson, to discuss the aims of the required access to enable the selection of an appropriate event that gives access to particular groups of pupils.

The Academy's Personal Development Lead works closely with SLT and will seek guidance from the appropriate member of the team to ensure that procedures are adhered to and appropriate visitor checks are made.

Opportunities for access

The Compass Academy is happy to arrange appropriate sessions but these must be scheduled at an appropriate time within the CEIAG programme. This will allow pupils to make decisions based on accurate information in the correct context.

A number of events, integrated into the school careers programme, may offer providers an opportunity to visit the school to speak to pupils and/or their parents/carers.

Preparing for visits

The academy will prepare for each provider visit by advising pupils and their parents/carers to consult provider websites for background information, including details of what the provider offers.

Providers are encouraged to leave a copy of their prospectus and/or other relevant course literature with the Personal Development Lead who will arrange for it to be made available to pupils in the dedicated 'Careers Corner' office.

Where possible, it would be beneficial to our pupils to be provided with an individual copy of a prospectus and/or information leaflet, as part of the provider visit. This additional information can help pupils and their parents/carers to consider the merits of different providers and make fully-informed decisions about next steps.

Premises and facilities

Please speak to our Careers Leader in the first instance to allow us to identify a suitable opportunity, the available facility and any specialist equipment/resources required to support your visit. This can be discussed with the Personal Development Lead and agreed in advance of any visit.

A copy of any handouts, literature and a copy of any presentation must be sent to the Personal Development Lead in advance of the visit to the Academy, for approval.

Additional needs/SEND

Many pupils that attend the academy have additional needs including SEND and/or SEMH vulnerabilities. It is recognised that some of our pupils may require a more bespoke offer of support, in which case, the individual needs of selected pupils will be discussed with key staff and representatives and relevant information shared.

The Personal Development Lead will ensure that the guidance needs of all pupils are considered.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The Academy will continue to monitor and evaluate all internal and external CEIAG to ensure that the information, advice and guidance is appropriate and best practice for all our learners. We will continue to engage with a range of local providers and will evaluate their provision through staff and pupil voice evaluation. External providers will also be encouraged to evaluate their experience.

Policy review

This policy is to be reviewed annually.

Next review date: September 2027