



Wirral Met College: Provider Access Policy Statement

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Rationale

High quality careers education and guidance in 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

Wirral Met College 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. Wirral Met College 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.

Wirral Metropolitan College endeavours to ensure that all students are aware of all routes to higher skills and are able to 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 Wirral Met College 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.

To support young people to be able to learn more about opportunities for education and training outside of college before making crucial choices about their future options.

To reduce withdrawal from courses and avoid the risk of students becoming NEET (Young people not in education, employment or training).

Student Entitlement

Wirral Met College fully supports the statutory requirement for students to have direct access to other providers of higher education training, technical training and apprenticeships. The college will comply with the new legal requirement to put on at least two encounters with providers of approved technical education qualifications or apprenticeships. This will be done in events during National Apprenticeship Week and National Careers Week, in addition to providers attending careers events and activities provided at college.

Development

This policy has been developed and is reviewed annually by the Director for Personal Development and the Senior Leadership Team based on current good practice guidelines by the Department for Education.

Links with other policies

It supports and is underpinned by key college 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 higher education and apprenticeships. Wirral Met College is committed to encouraging all students to make decisions about their future based on impartial information.

Requests for provider access

Requests for access, which have not been arranged via college managers, work experience and/or enrichment teams, should be directed to **Natalie Willetts (Director of Personal Development)**. **Natalie Willetts** may be contacted by telephone or email, **nataliewilletts@wmc.ac.uk** , Tel **0151 551 7777**

Grounds for granting requests for access

Access will be given for providers to attend during college enrichment activities, timetabled Thrive Tutorial sessions and Careers events that Wirral Met College is arranging.

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

Wirral Met College will provide an appropriate room at one of our campuses. All rooms have computers, projectors and screens provided. Computer rooms can also be arranged. The Careers Team 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.

Live/Virtual encounters

Wirral Met College will consider live online encounters with providers where requested, and these may be broadcast into classrooms or lecture theatre.

Technology checks in advance will be required to ensure compatibility of systems.

Parents and Carers

Parental involvement is encouraged, and parents may be invited to attend the events to meet the providers.

Management

The Director of Personal Development coordinates all provider requests and is responsible to their senior management line manager.