Academies Trust

Provider Access Legislation (PAL) 2026-2027

Access for colleges, training providers, university technical colleges, and all other post 16 providers offering technical votation and academic routes and apprenticeships

Policy details

- Date created - 02/09/2026
- Date reviewed - 02/09/2026
- Date approved - 02/09/2026
- Next review date - 09/07/2027
- Policy owner - C McLean

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1.Rationale

This policy statement sets out our academy's arrangements for managing the access of education and training providers to students for the purpose of giving them information about the various post 16 routes. All academies legally required to provide at least six encounters with providers of technical education or apprenticeships

It sets out:

- Procedures in relation to requests for access
- The grounds for granting and refusing requests for access

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

2.Statutory requirements

All academies adhere to the updated DfE Statutory guidance (May '25) and are working towards embedding the updated Gatsby benchmarks and preparing for the future introduction of a guarantee of 2 weeks worth of work experience for every young person.

All academies are required to ensure that there is an opportunity for a range of education and training providers to access students in years 8 to 13 for the purposes of informing them about approved technical education, qualifications or apprenticeships. This complies with the school's legal obligations under Section 42B of the Education Act 1997.

In addition to the Baker Clause, an amendment to the above stipulates that schools must allow colleges and training providers access to every student in years 8 - 13 to discuss non-academic routes that are available to them. It is expected that by doing so this will help address the UK's productivity challenges and address skills shortages experienced across several sectors of the economy. In line with the updated Provider Access Legislation, from January 2023, all students will have at least six encounters with providers of approved technical education qualifications or apprenticeships.

This is broken down into key phases: -

- 1st key phase: Year 8 or 9 two encounters for students that are mandatory for all to attend
- 2nd key phase: Year 10 or 11 two encounters for students that are mandatory for all to attend
- 3rd key phase: Year 12 or 13 two encounters that are mandatory for the academy to offer but optional for students to attend.

3.Pupil entitlement (intended learning outcomes)

At Co-op Academy North Manchester we will use Gatsby Benchmarks as a framework of best practice to develop and improve our careers provision to ensure that we not only fulfil legal duties of providing opportunities for a range of education and training providers to access all students in Year 7 to year 13 but to also have CEIAG programs that meet the needs of an ever changing cohort. All of our students are entitled:

1. 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;

2. To hear from a range of local providers about the opportunities they offer, including technical education and apprenticeships
3. To understand how to make applications for the full range of academic and technical courses.

These provider encounters will be scheduled during the main academy hours and there will a minimum expectation that our providers will provide :-

- Information about the provider and the approved technical education qualifications or apprenticeships they offer
- Information about the careers to which those technical education qualifications or apprenticeships might lead i.e career routes
- Description of what learning or training with the provider is like, including the opportunity to meet staff and students where possible
- Opportunities for students to ask questions , including our most vulnerable and those with additonal learning needs.

Further detail of our CEIAG programme is available on our website

4. Management of provider access requests

4.1 Procedure

A provider wishing to request access should complete this form stating their name, contact details, aims and objectives of visit and proposed format / timings.

4.2 Opportunities for access

Our academy will offer the six provider encounters required by law and a number of additional events, integrated into our careers program. We will offer providers an opportunity to come into our academies to speak to students and/or their parents or carers.

4.3 Safeguarding

Our policy on safeguarding, which can be found on our website, sets out our approach to allowing providers into our academy as visitors to talk to our students

Education and training providers will be expected to adhere to this policy.

4.4 Premises and facilities

Our academy will make the main hall, classrooms or private meeting rooms available for discussions between the provider and students, as appropriate to the activity.

The academy 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 the Careers Leader or a member of their team.

Providers are welcome to leave a copy of their prospectus or other relevant course literature at reception, from here they will be delivered to the CEAIG office and Library. This facility is available to all students at lunch and break times.

5. Monitoring arrangements

Co-op Academy North Manchester arrangements for managing the access of education and training providers to our students is monitored by Claire McLean and Laura Parkinson.

This policy will be reviewed by Claire McLean and Laura Parkinon. At every review, the policy will be approved by the governing board and the headteacher.

6. Student destinations

Last year, our year 11 pupils moved to a range of providers in the local area after school. Here are the destinations of our Y11 students that left our academy in July 2025:-

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Date	Academy	Year Group (leaving year)	Dataset	Cohort Size	%age moving on to positive destination	% Post 16 Education including further education, sixth form and specialist	% Apprenticeship	% Employment without training	% Employment with Training	% Training	% Reengagement Provision	%age NOT moving on to positive destination	%age of NEETs	%age not known
03/02/26	Coop Academy North Manchester	2025	LA Activity survey	245	96.33%	89.80%	4.08%	0.41%	0.41%	1.22%	0.41%	3.67%	3.67%	0%

			Males	116	109	101	4	0	1	2	1	7	7	0
			% of Year group	47.34%	44.49%	41.22%	2.04%	0%	2.04%	0.82%	0.41%	2.06%	2.06%	0%
			Females	129	127	119	6	1	0	1	0	2	2	0
			% of Year group	52.65%	51.84%	48.57%	2.86%	0.41%	2.86%	0.41%	0%	0.82%	0.82%	0%

Key Headlines

- The percentage into post-16 learning remains higher than the LA average though this has dropped from 2023 (99.15%)
- More pupils progressed into apprenticeships and jobs with training from previous academic years
- 8 pupils identifying as NEET, none of which were educated on site but at alternative provision institutions

Demographics - Context of the Cohort

Aspect	Sustained Post 16 Education March 2024	2023-24 Cohort
Size of Y11 cohort	243	232
Gender balance (B/G)	48% (117) / 52% (126)	99.16% (118) / 99.13% (114)
SEND profile	19.4% (47)	100% (26)

Pupil Premium	59% (143)	99.13% (114)
EAL profile	40% (97)	100% (93)

Qualification Level at Post-16	Percentage (Number)
Entry	6.12% (15)
Level 1	10.20% (26)
Level 2	27.35% (67)
Level 3	52.24% (128)
Unknown	4.08% (10)