Provider Access Policy Statement

Ownership: Accrington Academy

Date updated: September 2026

Rationale

High quality careers education and guidance in school 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

Accrington Academy 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. Accrington Academy 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 statutory duty, and not showing bias towards any route, be that academic or technical.

Accrington Academy 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 Accrington Academy 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 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).

Student Entitlement

Accrington Academy 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 through providers attending various careers events at the school.

Development

This policy has been developed and is reviewed annually by the Careers Cluster Manager and the Principle based on current good practice guidelines by the Department for Education.

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. Accrington Academy is committed to encouraging all students to make decisions about their future based on impartial information.

Requests for access

Requests for access should be directed to Jess Ross, Careers Cluster Manager. Jess Ross may be contacted by telephone, 01254 304300 or email on jess.ross@unitedlearning.co.uk.

Grounds for granting requests for access

Access will be given for providers to attend during school events that Accrington Academy is arranging. Students may also travel to visit providers as part of a trip to be organised in partnership with Accrington Academy.

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

Accrington Academy 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.

Live/Virtual encounters

Accrington Academy will consider 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 and Carers

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

Management

The Careers Cluster Manager coordinates all provider requests and is responsible to her senior management line manager.

Complaints Procedure

Any complaints about this policy should be raised to Jess Ross email: jess.ross@unitedlearning.oc.uk.

Jess Ross will raise the complaint with the Principle of Accrington Academy.

Monitoring review and evaluation

The Policy is monitored and evaluated annually via the Senior Leadership Team.

Policy Coordinator: Jess Ross.

Policy Review Due: September 2027

Appendix

Providers who have been invited into Accrington Academy to date include:

Accrington & Rossendale College	NLTG
Nelson & Colne College	Myerscough College
Blackburn College	Army
Burnley College	University of Lancashire
Training 2000	Senator
The Talent Foundry	Lancashire Constabulary
Future U	Hyndburn Leisure