



Provider Access Policy

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1. Audience

The Nicholas Postgate Catholic Academy Trust (NPCAT) provider access policy is aimed towards the Central Trust, schools, parents/carers, governors and external providers.

2. Purpose

This policy aims to set out the Nicholas Postgate Catholic Academy Trust (NPCAT) arrangements for how schools will provide access to external providers who want to inform pupils about technical education, apprenticeships and training opportunities.

3. Policy Statement

Nicholas Postgate Catholic Academy Trust (NPCAT) acknowledges the Baker Clause and provides the highest standards of careers advice, education and employability training for all its pupils, to ensure they are fully competitive in the workplace and can go on to lead fulfilling and successful lives. NPCAT acknowledges the changes made to the Skills and Post 16 Act 2022. Pupils will have a minimum number of six encounters with providers of technical education from Y8-Y13.

4. Scope

The NPCAT Provider Access Policy relates to all pupils from Years 8 to 13.

Pupil entitlement is as follows:

- To find out about technical education qualifications and apprenticeship opportunities as part of our careers programme, which provides information on the full range of education and training options available at each transition stage;
- To have access to a range of local providers about the opportunities they offer, including technical education and apprenticeships;
- To be in receipt of Information, Advice and Guidance to access a full range of academic and technical courses;
- To provide opportunities for a range of education and training providers to access all years 8 to 13;
- Two encounters during the 'first key phase' (year 8 or 9);
- Two encounters during the 'second key phase' (year 10 or 11);
- Two encounters during the 'third key phase' (year 12 or 13).

Schools and providers will work together. Schools will ask each provider to provide information to pupils that, as a minimum, includes:

- Information about the provider and the approved technical education qualifications or apprenticeships that the provider offers;
- Information about the careers to which those technical education qualifications or apprenticeships might lead;
- A description of what learning or training with the provider is like;
- Responses to questions from the pupils about the provider or approved technical education qualifications and apprenticeships.

Meaningful provider encounters

One encounter is defined as one meeting/session between pupils and one provider. We are committed to providing meaningful encounters to all pupils. Meaningful online engagement is also an option, and we are open to providers that are able to provide live online engagement with our pupils.

NPCAT schools and Sixth Forms will ensure they will not show bias towards any route, be that academic or technical. They will promote a full range of technical options.

5. Values and Principles

What are the values underlying this policy? What are the core principles of the policy?

Principles	What this means for NPCAT schools
Nurturing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• All pupils are supported with guidance and opportunities that develop their skills, interests, and aspirations.
Perseverance	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pupils are exposed to a variety of meaningful experiences and encounters that help them plan, overcome challenges, and stay committed to their aspirations.
Courage	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Exploring careers, engaging with employers, or participating in work experience can be challenging. Pupils are given the opportunity to step outside their comfort zones, encouraging them to have the courage to ask questions, engage in activities and pursue future aspirations.
Ambition	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• All pupils are exposed to a wide variety of career paths, raising aspirations, and broadening their horizons. Pupils are supported to aim high and set goals for their future.

Tolerance and respect	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• All pupils access a diverse range of providers and employers and demonstrate that every pupil's ambitions and choices are valued.
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"An all-round education seeks to develop every aspect of the individual: social, intellectual, emotional, moral and spiritual. For there is an ecology of human growth, which means that if any of these elements is overlooked all of the others suffer."

Pope John Paul II

6. Requirements

Schools are required to ensure that there is an opportunity for a range of education and training providers to access pupils in Years 8-13 for the purposes of informing them about approved technical education, qualifications and apprenticeships.

Schools must also include, within the policy statement, the circumstances in which education and training providers will be given access to these pupils. This is outlined in Section 42B of the Education Act 1997.

This policy shows how NPCAT complies with these requirements, otherwise known as the Baker Clause.

6.1 Opportunities for Access

A number of events are integrated into the school careers programme which would potentially offer providers an opportunity to visit the school and speak with pupils and/or parents/carers.

The school calendar varies from year to year so providers need to make initial contact with the school, to identify the most suitable opportunity. The events are arranged well in advance so it is essential that providers contact the school early in the academic year to be involved in our planning.

**Please refer to the careers calendar.*

A provider wishing to request access should contact: Luke Myers Email: myers.l@npcat.org.uk

6.2 Granting and Refusing Access

As part of the school's comprehensive careers programme, a range of events and activities are organised throughout the academic year. These provide

opportunities for external providers to visit the school and engage directly with pupils and/or their parents and carers.

These opportunities may include:

- Year Group Assemblies – Presentations delivered to specific year groups or mixed-age cohorts.
- Small Group Talks – Focused sessions for smaller groups of pupils.
- Careers Fairs and Guided Pathway Events – Opportunities for providers to host information stands and speak to pupils and parents.
- Mock Interviews and Employability Workshops – Practical sessions to help pupils prepare for future pathways.
- Information Sessions – Delivered by a range of post-16 education and training providers, including (but not limited to) local colleges, sixth forms, universities and apprenticeship organisations.
- Mentoring and Small Group Work – Ongoing support and guidance for targeted groups of pupils.
- Extra-Curricular Involvement – Participation in school clubs, trips, and events related to careers and personal development.
- Work Experience Placements – Opportunities for pupils to gain first-hand experience in the workplace.

6.3 Safeguarding

Providers will be expected to meet the school's safeguarding requirements and comply with any relevant risk assessments.

6.4 Premises and Facilities

Access to appropriate rooms and facilities will be discussed and agreed in advance of the planned visit with responsibility resting with the nominated person.

Providers must provide in advance all relevant brochures and other printed materials specifically related to technical courses and apprenticeships which they wish to be made available to pupils either by being displayed within the Career Hubs or via the Careers section of the school library.

6.5 Parents and Carers

Parental involvement is encouraged, and parents may be invited to attend the events to meet the providers. Schools will inform parents when this is available.

6.6 Complaints procedure

Any complaints about this policy should be raised following the school's complaints policy found here: <https://npcat.org.uk/trust-policies/>

7. Definitions

In a table list all of the keywords associated with this procedure and their definitions. Also list any acronyms.

Baker Clause	Introduced as an amendment to the Technical and Further Education Act 2017, the Baker Clause 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
Technical Education	A combination of academic and vocational education to prepare pupils for careers within the Scientific and Modern Technology industries.
Apprenticeships	A combination of employment alongside studying for a formal qualification, and earning at least a minimum wage.
Gatsby Benchmarks	A nationally recognised framework of 8 benchmarks, to support schools and colleges in achieving good career guidance.

8. Legislation

- [Education Act 1997 \(Section 42B\)](#)
- [Careers guidance and access for education and training providers](#)

9. Related Policies

- NPCAT - Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy
- Equalities statement
- Complaints policy
- Remote learning (online education)

10. Supporting Information / Websites

- [What maintained schools must publish online](#)
- [The Careers & Enterprise Company](#)
- [Gatsby Benchmarks](#)
- [Careers guidance and access for education and training providers](#)

11. Contacts

For advice on this policy, please contact:

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Careers Lead
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