**Doncaster School for the Deaf**

**Provider Access Policy Statement**

Under Section 42B of the Education Act 1997, as of 2 January 2018, we have a duty to provide pupils in Years 8-13 with access to providers of post-14, post-16 and post-18 education and training. This policy statement sets out how we manage access requests from these providers.

**Provider access legislation**

**The importance of provider encounters**

Every pupil, whatever their ambitions, should have the opportunity to explore what it is like to learn at the full range of learning providers, including colleges, universities, apprenticeship and training providers (including employers), University Technical Colleges (UTCs) and Studio Schools. That is why the department introduced a legal duty in 2018 to require all maintained schools and academies to ensure that there is an opportunity for a range of education and training providers to access all year 8 to 13 pupils for the purpose of informing them about approved technical education qualifications and apprenticeships. By hearing directly from a range of providers, every pupil can build up a full picture of the options available and consider how the opportunity to study or train in different ways, and in different environments, might suit their skills, interests and aptitudes. This will lead to better-informed choices and help to reduce the risk of young people dropping out of courses.

**What are pupils entitled to?**

Pupils must be allowed to:

* Learn more about technical education qualifications and apprenticeship opportunities, as part of a careers programme which informs pupils of the full range of education and training options available to them at each transition point.
* Hear from a range of local providers about the opportunities on offer, e.g., technical education (T levels) and apprenticeships – this can be achieved through various options of evening meetings, assemblies, group discussions, and taster events.
* Understand how to apply to the full range of academic and technical courses available to them.

**Provider Encounters**

Provider encounters will be scheduled during the main school hours and the provider will be given a reasonable amount of time to, as a minimum:

 • share information about both the provider and the approved technical education qualification and apprenticeships that the provider offers

 • explain what career routes those options could lead to

 • provide insights into what it might be like to learn or train with that provider (including the opportunity to meet staff and pupils from the provider)

 • answer questions from pupils.

**Who handles our access requests?**

Any provider wishing to request access should contact our careers leader, Emma-Jayne Smith, on **01302 386733** or via email on emmasmith@ddt-deaf.org.co.uk

**Who should providers contact to discuss events and options?**

Providers can speak to our Career's Leader, Emma-Jayne Smith, to discuss possible attendance at relevant events. Our Safeguarding Policy and visitors Policy sets out the school’s approach to allowing providers into school to speak to our pupils.

Some Speakers will require BSL interpreters, and this may take up to 4 weeks to arrange

**Premises and facilities**?

Once we have approved a provider, we will work with them to identify the best method for providing access to our pupils.

We will make the school hall, classrooms and private meeting rooms available to host discussions between providers and pupils. We will also make presentation equipment, such as projectors and televisions, available to providers. Arrangements will be discussed in advance between our Careers Leader and a nominated member of the provider’s team.

**Can providers leave prospectuses for pupils to read?**

Providers are welcome to leave a copy of their prospectus and other relevant course literature

**Approval and review**

This policy statement was approved by the school governing body and will be subject to the school self-evaluation cycle

**Careers Leader:**

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