



Batchwood School

PROVIDER ACCESS POLICY

To be read in conjunction with Careers Policy (OP8)

Signed – Governor
Print Name: **D Laverick-Brown**

Signed - Headteacher
Print Name: **Ross Whitaker**

Date reviewed: June 2026
Next review due: June 2027

Introduction

This policy outlines Batchwood School's arrangements for managing access to the school by education, training and employer providers who wish to engage with pupils to promote awareness of technical education qualifications, apprenticeships, traineeships, vocational pathways and employment opportunities.

This policy supports the delivery of the school's Careers Programme and complies with the school's legal obligations under Section 42B of the Education Act 1997 (as amended by the Technical and Further Education Act 2017), which requires schools to provide pupils with opportunities to learn about technical education qualifications and apprenticeships.

Batchwood School is committed to ensuring that all pupils receive high-quality careers education that enables them to make informed decisions about their future education, training and employment pathways.

Pupil Entitlement (Years 8–13)

All pupils in Years 8–13 are entitled to:

Information about all pathways

Receive information about the full range of education and training options available after secondary school, including:

- A Levels and academic qualifications
- Technical qualifications
- T Levels
- Apprenticeships
- Traineeships
- Employment and training opportunities
- Higher education and alternative pathways

Meaningful encounters with providers and employers

Have opportunities to engage with a wide range of providers and employers through:

- Assemblies, workshops and employer talks
- Careers fairs and apprenticeship events
- College, training provider and workplace visits
- Taster sessions and virtual employer encounters

Guidance and support

Receive support to understand entry requirements, application processes, progression routes and career pathways linked to different qualifications and sectors.

Provider Access Entitlement (Years 8–11)

In line with the Provider Access Legislation, pupils of compulsory school age (Years 8–11) will receive a minimum of four meaningful encounters with providers of technical education and apprenticeships. The planned entitlement is:

- **Year 8 and Year 9:** Two provider encounters
- **Year 10 and Year 11:** Two provider encounters

These encounters will take place during normal school hours and will be accessible to all pupils. Batchwood School will ensure encounters are inclusive, meaningful and provide pupils with opportunities to explore different progression routes.

Meaningful Provider Encounter Requirements

A meaningful provider encounter is defined as a structured interaction between pupils and a provider that allows pupils to:

- **Learn about providers and opportunities:** Receive information about the organisation, available technical qualifications, apprenticeship opportunities, entry requirements and progression routes.
- **Understand career pathways:** Explore possible careers linked to different courses and apprenticeships, skills required for different industries and future employment opportunities.
- **Experience provider insight:** Interact with provider representatives, employers and current apprentices or learners where possible.
- **Ask questions:** Have opportunities to ask questions and receive clear information to support decision-making.

Batchwood School uses the “Making it Meaningful” guidance to support the quality of provider encounters.

Provider Access Requests

Providers wishing to request access to Batchwood School should contact:

Mr M. Pearson

Careers Leader

Email: mpearson@batchwood.herts.sch.uk

Requests should include organisation details, the purpose of the proposed activity, intended year group(s), preferred dates/times, and any equipment or facilities required.

The Careers Leader will review requests and identify appropriate opportunities within the school's Careers Programme. Priority will be given to activities that support pupils' career development, provide meaningful encounters, support the Gatsby Benchmarks, and offer insight into technical education, apprenticeships or employment pathways.

Opportunities for Provider Access

Batchwood School welcomes engagement from further education colleges, apprenticeship and training providers, universities, employers, professional organisations, and community organisations.

Provider opportunities may include careers fairs, assemblies, tutor time sessions, curriculum-linked activities, workshops, workplace visits, employer encounters, and parent/carer information events. Providers are encouraged to work with the Careers Leader to identify the most suitable opportunities.

Premises and Facilities

Batchwood School will provide suitable facilities to support provider engagement, including the main hall, classrooms, meeting spaces and conference facilities. The school can provide presentation equipment, audio-visual facilities and internet access where required. Specific requirements will be agreed in advance with the Careers Leader.

The school also welcomes high-quality virtual provider encounters, including live online sessions where appropriate. Providers may supply prospectuses, course information, apprenticeship information and careers resources to be shared with pupils through the Careers Resource Centre.

Provider Encounters Across the Careers Programme

YEAR GROUP	AUTUMN TERM	SPRING TERM	SUMMER TERM
Year 8	Visits to technical skills providers and colleges	Apprenticeship workshops exploring technical apprenticeships and traineeships	Technical/vocational tasters at local colleges and training providers
Year 9	Careers adviser support and pathway discussions	Apprenticeship workshops exploring technical routes and traineeships	Provider encounters completed by 28 February in line with legislation
Year 10	KS4 Careers Fair; Post-16 technical education options; College application support	Technical/vocational tasters; apprenticeship workshops	Further college/provider encounters and career pathway activities
Year 11	Post-16 provider open evenings; apprenticeship lessons; careers guidance meetings; applications support	Post-16 interviews; apprenticeship workshops; work experience placements	Confirmation of post-16 destinations; provider encounters completed by 28 February

Regular Provider and Employer Partners

Batchwood School works with a range of providers and employers. This list is not exhaustive.

PROVIDER	OPPORTUNITIES PROVIDED
Oaklands College	College visits, careers fairs and opportunities to explore a range of subjects and courses.
West Herts College	College visits, careers fairs and subject-specific information sessions.
North Hertfordshire College	Provider encounters, course information and careers events.
Hertford Regional College	College engagement, careers events and progression information.
John O'Connor	Enterprise Adviser support, career talks, workshops, workplace visits and work experience opportunities.
Morgan Sindall	Construction careers talks, employability workshops and work experience opportunities.
Tesco Apprenticeships	Virtual employer encounters, apprenticeship information and career talks.
Jobcentre Plus	Employability support, employer encounters and preparation for the workplace.
The Careers & Enterprise Company	Careers support, training, employer connections and Careers Hub support.
Services for Young People	Careers guidance, youth projects, work-related learning and support services.
Amazing Apprenticeships	Apprenticeship workshops, parent/carer guidance and staff resources.
NHS Apprenticeships	Virtual employer encounters and information about healthcare pathways.
SEGRO	Employer encounters across construction, property, business and related sectors.
Amazon	Workplace visits exploring logistics, IT, business and operational careers.
IKEA	Workplace experiences exploring retail, design, construction and business roles.
Vinci Construction	Construction workshops, workplace activities and site visits.
ELSA	Skills workshops and workplace experiences across different sectors.
Sky Studios – SkyUp	Media careers experiences, workplace activities, talks and visits.
British Army Apprenticeships	Workshops exploring apprenticeship routes, teamwork and career pathways.

Complaints Procedure

Any concerns regarding provider access should be raised through Batchwood School's formal complaints procedure, which is available from the school office.

Alternatively, concerns may be directed to: **The Careers & Enterprise Company**

Email: provideraccess@careersandenterprise.co.uk