

# Birches Head Academy



## Provider Access Statement

Policy/Procedure Leader	Careers Lead
Policy/Procedure Approval Date	Summer 2025
Frequency of Review	Two- Yearly
Review Date	Summer 2026
Signature of Principal:	Signature of Chair of Governors:
	
<b>Mr P Masher</b>	<b>Suzanne Finlay</b>

This Provider Access Statement sets out Birches Head Academy's arrangements for managing the access of providers to pupils at the academy for the purpose of giving them information about the provider's education or training offer. This complies with the academy's legal obligations under Section 42B of the Education Act 1997 and the updated Provider Access Legislation (PAL) 2023.

### **Commitment to Provider Encounters**

The school is committed to providing pupils with meaningful encounters with providers of technical education and apprenticeships. In line with the Skills and Post-16 Education Act 2022, the school will ensure:

- Years 8–9: At least two encounters with providers.
- Years 10–11: At least two encounters with providers.
- Years 12–13: At least two encounters with providers.

These encounters will be scheduled during the normal school day and will be designed to be high-quality, interactive, and relevant to pupils' career aspirations.

All pupils in Years 8 to 11 are entitled to:

- Find out about technical education qualifications and apprenticeships opportunities as part of a careers programme.
- Hear from a range of local providers about the opportunities they offer.
- Understand how to make applications for the full range of academic and technical courses.

### **Equal Access for All Pupils**

The school guarantees equal access to provider encounters for all pupils, regardless of background, ability, or academic pathway. Reasonable adjustments will be made to ensure inclusion of pupils with SEND or other additional needs.

### **Management of Provider Access Requests**

A provider wishing to request access should contact the Careers Leader:

Name: Laura Walker

Telephone: 01782233595

Email: [lwalker@bircheshead.org.uk](mailto:lwalker@bircheshead.org.uk)

### **Opportunities for Access**

Our academy offers a comprehensive careers programme which includes multiple opportunities for providers to speak to students and/or their parents. These may take place during assemblies, careers fairs, workshops, and other events. Providers are welcome to contact the Careers Leader to identify suitable opportunities.

### **Quality Assurance of Encounters**

To ensure encounters are meaningful, providers must:

- Deliver sessions that include information on pathways, qualifications, and progression routes.
- Engage pupils through interactive formats such as workshops, Q&A sessions, or hands-on activities.
- Provide follow-up resources or contact information for further guidance.

### **Safeguarding & Data Protection**

The academy's safeguarding policy must be adhered to by all visitors. Providers will be briefed on safeguarding procedures prior to any visit. All provider interactions must comply with the school's safeguarding policies and UK GDPR. Providers may be asked to submit risk assessments and confirm DBS clearance where appropriate.

### **Premises and Facilities**

The academy will make appropriate spaces available for discussions between providers and students. AV and IT equipment can be provided upon request. Providers are welcome to leave prospectuses and other materials for distribution.