

St Michael's Middle School: Provider Access Policy

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 in acquiring 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.

Aims

The St Michael's Middle 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.

This policy statement sets out the school's arrangements for managing the access of providers to the school for the purpose of giving them information about the provider's education or training offer. This complies with the school's legal obligations under Section 42B of the Education Act 1997.

Student Entitlement

All students in years 8 to 13 are entitled:

- to find out about technical education qualifications and apprenticeships opportunities, as part of a careers programme which provides information on the full range of education and training options available at each transition point;
- to hear from a range of local providers about the opportunities they offer, including technical education and apprenticeships – through options events, assemblies, group discussions and taster events;
- to understand how to make applications for the full range of academic and technical courses.

For pupils of compulsory school age, these encounters are mandatory and there will be a minimum of two encounters for pupils during the 'first key phase' (year 8 to 9) * and two encounters for pupils during the 'second key phase' (year 10 to 11). For pupils in the 'third key phase' (year 12 to 13), particularly those that have not yet decided on their next steps, there are two more provider encounters available during this period, which are optional for pupils to attend.

As a middle school with year 8 pupils only, we will guarantee that this entitlement commences by ensuring technical education qualifications and apprenticeships are discussed and explained through our careers programme and that we have a range of guest speakers to meet these requirements.

These 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.

Meaningful provider encounters

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

Management of provider access requests

Procedure

A provider wishing to request access should contact Pam Gould, Careers Leader, Telephone: 01202 883433; Email: pgould@stmichaelsmiddle.org

Opportunities for access

The school provides at least one of the compulsory school-age encounters required by law during the 'first key phase' (years 8 to 9) by ensuring technical education qualifications and apprenticeships are discussed and explained through our careers programme and that we have a range of guest speakers to meet these requirements. A number of events, integrated into the school careers programme, will offer providers an opportunity to come into school to speak to pupils and/or their parents/carers e.g. assemblies, workshops and careers fair opportunities.

Please speak to our Careers Leader, Pam Gould, to identify the most suitable opportunity for you.

Premises and facilities

St Michael's Middle School will make the main hall, classrooms or private meeting rooms available for discussions between the provider and pupils, as appropriate to the activity. The school will also make available AV and other specialist equipment to support provider presentations. This will all be discussed and agreed in advance of the visit with the Careers Leader. Appropriate safeguarding checks will be carried out. Providers will be met and supervised by a member of the Careers Team who will facilitate.

Providers are welcome to leave a copy of their prospectus or other relevant course literature at the Careers Resource Centre, which is managed by the school librarian. The Resource Centre is available to all pupils at lunch and break times.

Live/Virtual encounters

Meaningful online engagement is also an option and we are open to providers that are able to provide live online engagement with our pupils.

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. St Michael's Middle School is committed to encouraging all students to make decisions about their future based on impartial information.

Complaints:

Any complaints with regards to provider access can be raised following the school complaints procedure or directly with The Careers & Enterprise Company via provideraccess@careersandenterprise.co.uk

Approval and review

This policy has been developed and is reviewed annually by the Careers Leader and Line Manager (Darren Ayling, Headteacher) based on current good practice guidelines by the Department for Education

Approved October 2023 Academy Committee

Reviewed: October 2024

Next Review: October 2025

Signed: Pam Gould October 2024

Head teacher: Darren Ayling - Oct 24