

May 2024



PAL (PROVIDER ACCESS LEGISLATION) POLICY

**Spring Common Academy,
American Lane, Huntingdon, PE29 1TQ**

Name of School: Spring Common Academy

Provider Access Policy Statement

(To include The Department of Education, July 2021: "Baker Clause" and the Provider Access Legislation, January 2023)

Ownership: Spring Common Academy

Date updated: May 2024

Rationale

High quality careers education and guidance in school or college 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 to acquire the self-development and career management skills they need to achieve positive employment destinations. We aim to help our students to develop ideas on their future pathways, to improve their opportunities and help to contribute to a productive and successful economy.

The number of apprenticeships rises every year and it becomes increasingly important that our young people have a full understanding of all the options available to them in the future including wider technical education options such as T-Levels and Higher Technical Qualifications.

Commitment

Spring Common Academy is committed to ensuring that there are opportunities for our students to access a range of education and training providers, for the purpose of informing them about approved technical education qualifications and apprenticeships. Spring Common Academy is fully aware of the responsibility to help our students to find the path that will secure the best outcome which will enable them to progress in education and/or work. Whilst Spring Common Academy ensure that all our young people have an entitlement to the provision we realise that they may not be able to access or understand that entitlement. In these individual cases an alternative plan can be discussed with those with parental responsibility.

We aim to help develop the highly skilled workforce that employers need. We act impartially, in line with the statutory duty, and do not show bias towards any particular route, be that academic or technical. In the context of the provider access legislation, a provider is an organisation that offered approved technical education qualifications or their representative, for example an FE College or training provider.

Spring Common Academy endeavours to ensure that all students are aware of all possible routes to higher skills and are able to access information on technical options and apprenticeships (The Department of Education, July 2021: "Baker Clause": supporting students to understand the full range of education and training options, and the Provider Access Legislation, January 2023).

Aims

The Spring Common Academy policy for access to a variety of 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.
- To reduce drop out from courses and avoid the risk of students becoming NEET

(Youngpeople not in education, employment or training).

Student Entitlement

Spring Common Academy fully supports the statutory requirement for students to have direct access to providers of further education training, technical training, and apprenticeships. The school complies with the new legal requirement to put on at least four encounters with providers of approved technical education qualifications or apprenticeships.

All pupils from Year 7 to 14 are entitled to:

- To find out about technical education qualifications and apprenticeships opportunities as a part of a careers program, 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 that they offer, including technical education and apprenticeships through option events, fundraising events, assemblies and group discussions and taster events.
- To understand how to make applications for the full range of academic and technical courses.

This will be done in a variety of ways including, but not limited to assemblies, participation during National Apprenticeship Week and National Careers Week, and careers events at school including moving on events.

Development

This policy has been developed and is reviewed annually by the careers and leadership team based on current good practice guidelines by the Department for Education.

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 & Diversity

Access to other providers is available and promoted to allow all students to access information about a range of providers of further education and apprenticeships. Spring Common Academy is committed to encouraging all students to make decisions about their future based on impartial information and are supported by the Additional Needs Pathway Advisor from the 14-25 Additional Needs Team.

Requests for Access

A provider wishing to request access should contact Tom Dougherty or Deb Wurf Telephone 01487377403; Email tdougherty@springcommon.cambs.sch.uk or dwurf@springcommon.cambs.sch.uk

Grounds for Granting Requests for Access

Access will be given for providers to attend during school assemblies, timetabled Careers or Life lessons, and Careers or Raising Aspirations events, National Careers week events and the moving on event as arranged at Spring Common Academy. Students may also travel to visit other providers as part of trips to be organised in partnership with Horizons Education Trust or the Enterprise advisor.

Details of Premises or Facilities to be Provided to a Person Who is Given Access

Spring Common Academy can provide an appropriate room or assembly hall as agreed, with computers, projectors and screens provided. Access to computers can also be arranged, working closely with the provider to ensure the facilities are appropriate to the audience. Appropriate safeguarding checks will be carried out before any access is granted. Providers will be met and supervised by a member of the staff team who will facilitate.

Live/Virtual Encounters

Spring Common Academy provides live online encounters where requested, and these may be broadcast into classrooms or the school assembly hall. Technology checks in advance will be required to ensure compatibility of systems.

Parents and Carers

Parental involvement is encouraged, and parents will be invited to attend the events to meet the providers.

Management

The Careers Leaders coordinate all provider requests and is responsible to his/her senior management line manager.

Complaints Procedure

Any complaints about this policy should be raised to:
Head Teacher
email: headteacher@springcommon.cambs.sch.uk

Monitoring review and evaluation

The Policy is monitored and evaluated annually via the Executive Leadership and Trust board.

Policy Coordinator: Tom Dougherty
Policy Reviewed: May 2024

Signed on behalf of the Trustees: KIM TAYLOR

Committee: _____

Author: TOM DOUGHERTY, ANDREW ARMSTRONG

Review date (optional): _____

Website Y