

Provider Access Legislation (PAL)

Ownership: Chiltern Hills Academy

Date updated: June 2026

This policy statement sets out Chiltern Hills Academy arrangements for managing the access of providers to pupils at 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 45A of the Education Act 1997.

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 helps them to acquire 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.

Commitment

Chiltern Hills Academy is committed to ensuring there is an opportunity for a range of education and training providers to access students, for the purpose of informing them about approved technical education qualifications and apprenticeships.

Chiltern Hills Academy is fully aware of the responsibility of setting students on the path that will secure the best outcome which will enable them to progress in education and work and give employers the highly skilled people they need. That means acting impartially, in line with the statutory duty, and not showing bias towards any route, be that academic or technical.

The Academy endeavours to ensure that all students are aware of all routes to higher skills and can 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

Chiltern Hills Academy 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.

To reduce drop out from courses and avoid the risk of students becoming NEET (Young people not in education, employment or training).

Student Entitlement

All students in years 8-13 are entitled

- To find out about technical education qualifications and apprenticeship 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 and group discussions and taster events
- To understand how to make applications for the full range of academic and technical courses

See Appendix

Development

This policy has been developed and is reviewed annually by the Assistant Head Mrs Falcon and Careers Lead, Mrs Hemsworth 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 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. Chiltern Hills Academy is committed to encouraging all students to make decisions about their future based on impartial information.

Requests for access

Requests for access should be directed to Mrs Hemsworth Careers Lead – email office@chacademy.co.uk or Mrs Jo Groom – email office@chacademy.co.uk or by telephone 01494 782006 may be contacted by telephone or email

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 that Chiltern Hills Academy is arranging. Students may also travel to visit another provider as part of the trip to be organised in partnership with the Academy.

Safeguarding

Our Safeguarding policy sets out the Academy's approach to allowing providers into the Academy as visitors to talk to our students. The policy outlines the school's procedure for checking the identity and suitability of visitors. At all times we ensure that there are no issues of safeguarding and that our students are always completely safe whilst meeting or speaking to external providers. Education and training providers will be expected to adhere to this policy.

Details of premises or facilities to be provided to a person who is given access

Chiltern Hills Academy will provide an appropriate room or assembly hall to be agreed. All rooms have computers, projectors and screens provided. Computer rooms can also be arranged. The Careers Leader or Careers Adviser will organize this, working closely with the provider to ensure the facilities are appropriate to the audience. Appropriate safeguarding checks will be carried out. Providers will be met and supervised by a member of the Careers Team who will facilitate.

Live/Virtual encounters

Chiltern Hills Academy will consider live online encounters with providers 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 may be invited to attend the events to meet the providers.

Management

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

Complaints Procedure

Any complaints about this policy should be raised to Mrs Hemsworth email:

office@chacademy.co.uk. Mrs Hemsworth will raise the complaint to Principal Mr Tim Dobbs

Monitoring review and evaluation

The Policy is monitored and evaluated annually via the Senior Leadership Team

Policy Coordinator: Mrs Hemsworth

Policy Reviewed: June 2026

Next Policy Review Date: June 2027

APPENDIX

Provider access legislation update

In January 2023, the updated provider access legislation (PAL) came into force. The updated legislation specifies schools must provide at least six encounters with approved providers of apprenticeships and technical education for students Year 8-13

- Two encounters for pupils during the 'first key phase' (Year 8 or 9) that are mandatory for all pupils to attend
- Two encounters for pupils during the 'second key phase' (Year 10 or 11) that are mandatory for all pupils to attend
- Two encounters for pupils during the 'third key phase' (Year 12 or 13) that are mandatory for the school to put on but optional for pupils to attend

The new legislation will become a key mechanism to further help learners understand and take-up, not just apprenticeships, but wider technical education options such as T-Levels and Higher Technical Qualifications. Chiltern Hills Academy knows that improving students' knowledge of Apprenticeships and Technical Education pathways alongside other learning pathways is key to supporting students find their best next step.

Implementation

A 'rolling programme' over a four-year period from Year 8 – Year 11 is delivered

Year 8 Apprenticeship Talk

Year 9 College Talk A level/BTEC/T-Levels

Year 10 Apprenticeship Talk/Careers Event

Year 11 Post 16 Event/ College talk/T-Levels/BTEC

Year 12& 13 Degree Apprenticeship Awareness

Assembly & Apprentice Mock Assessment Workshop

Local Apprenticeship provide talks, Apprenticeship Fair

Examples of Technical Education/Apprenticeship providers to help to deliver the sessions

Colleges

West Herts College

Bucks College Group

Berkshire College of Agriculture

Apprenticeships Talks

Industry Leaders

Bucks New University

Army

NHS

Construction Industry Training Board (CITB) & BAM Construction

KMPG, MHA, Grant Thornton, ICAEQ, PWC.

Policy Reviewed: June 2026

Review date: June 2027

