



Policy:	Provider Access Policy
Date adopted:	March 2026
Date to be reviewed:	March 2027
Signed:	
Position:	Chair of Governors

Dorchester Learning Centre: Provider Access Policy Statement

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

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. 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

The Dorchester Learning Centre (DLC) 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. DLC is fully aware of the responsibility to set 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.

DLC endeavours to ensure that all students are aware of all 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 DLC 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

DLC fully supports the statutory requirement for students to have direct access to other providers of further education training, technical training and apprenticeships. The school will comply with the new legal requirement to put on at least six encounters with providers of approved technical education qualifications or apprenticeships. This will be done within Careers and Independent Living

lessons, in National Apprenticeship Week and National Careers Week, in addition to providers attending careers events at school and making bespoke visits to DLC.

Development

This policy has been developed and is reviewed annually by the Careers Leader and Deputy Headteacher 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. DLC 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 Prue Gosney, Careers Leader. Prue may be contacted by telephone or email, p.gosney@dlc.dorset.sch.uk or 01305 261213.

Grounds for granting requests for access

Access will be given for providers to attend during timetabled Careers or Independent Living lessons, and Careers or Raising Aspirations events that DLC is arranging. Students may also travel to visit another provider as part of the trip to be organised in partnership with DLC.

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

DLC will provide an appropriate room or hall to be agreed. All rooms have computers, projectors and screens provided. The Careers Leader will organise 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

DLC will consider live online encounters with providers where requested, and these may be broadcast into classrooms or the school 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 senior management line manager.

Complaints Procedure

Any complaints about this policy should be raised to Prue Gosney, email: p.gosney@dlc.dorset.sch.uk

Prue will raise the complaint to David Dinsmore, Headteacher of DLC.

Monitoring review and evaluation

The Policy is monitored and evaluated annually via the Headteacher, David Dinsmore.

Policy Coordinator: Prue Gosney

Appendix

Providers who have been invited into DLC to date include:

Weymouth College	SWRAC
Bournemouth & Poole College	Kingston Maurward College
Dorset Council	Dorset Build
NHS	Dorset Police
Kane's Autos	Sky
Proudbury Garden Centre	The Winterborne Hospital – Circle Health Group
Yeovil College	Army
Food Links	Dorset and Wiltshire Fire
Side by Side Training	CG Fry and Sons
Hearn Group	British Red Cross
Submariners	Hyett Education
Education Group	Magna Housing
Weymouth and Portland Adventure	BES Electrical
Aspire training	Harbour 6 th Form
Kevin Haskell	Meyers Estate Agents
OTC	Land and Wave
Navy	RAF

Destinations of previous pupils from DLC include:

Weymouth College	Kingston Maurward College
SWRAC	Yeovil College
Bournemouth and Poole College	Aurora Boveridge College
Bridgewater and Taunton College	Brokenhurst College
Beaminster School	