



RIDGEWOOD
SCHOOL

Provider Access Policy

Revision Number : 1.0 (New Policy)

Approved by: School Governing Body

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New Review: January 2026

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1. Introduction

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.

2. Pupil entitlement

All pupils 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 and 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.

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.

3. Meaningful provider encounters

One encounter is defined as one meeting/session between pupils and one provider. We are committed to providing meaningful encounters to all pupils using the Making it meaningful checklist.

[1540 Make it meaningful checklist v6 \(FINAL\).pdf \(careersandenterprise.co.uk\)](https://careersandenterprise.co.uk/1540-Make-it-meaningful-checklist-v6-FINAL.pdf)
(careersandenterprise.co.uk)

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

4. Previous Providers

In previous terms/years we have invited the following providers from the local area to speak to our pupils:

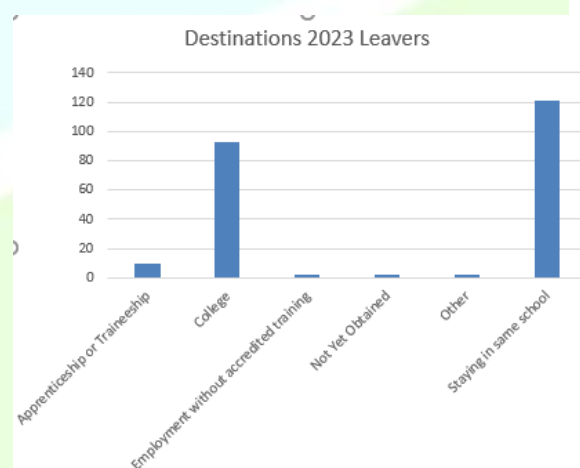
Department for Work and Pensions	ASK Apprenticeships
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Doncaster College	DMBC Apprenticeships
AMRC Training Centre	GTA Training
National Horseracing College	NHS Doncaster and Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals
Volker Rail	Royal Air Force Careers
Home Instead	Royal Navy Careers
Wates Construction	St Leger Homes
CWE	Aardagh Glass
Eagle Platforms	Oliver King consulting
BAM Construction	YCSC
Knights Law	Ministry of Defence – Army Careers
Harworth Group	Taylor Wimpy
Allen and Overy	South Yorkshire Fire Service
Rolls Royce	Weldricks
Willmot Dixon	CITB
Holistic IT	Efficiency North
Education and Skills training and development	University of York
University of Huddersfield	Virgin Money
HSBC	University of Sheffield
Northumbria University	Leeds Beckett University
Advance Apprenticeships	Engineering Development Trust

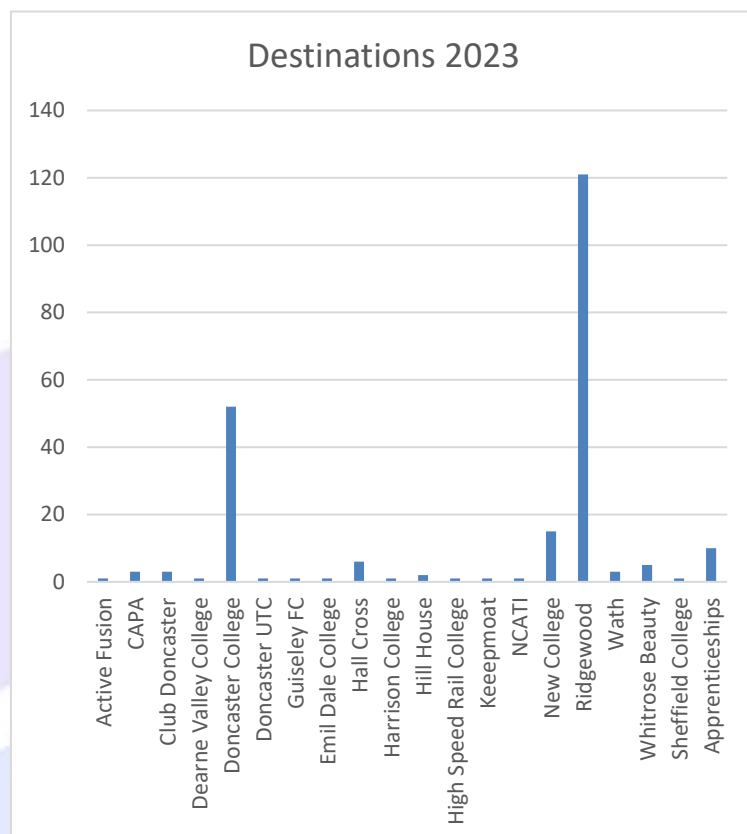
5. Destination of our pupils

Last year our year 11 pupils moved to range of providers in the local area after school:

Apprenticeship or Traineeship	10
College	93
Employment without accredited training	2
Not Yet Obtained	2
Other	2
Staying in same school	121



Active Fusion	1
CAPA	3
Club Doncaster	3
Dearne Valley College	1
Doncaster College	52
Doncaster UTC	1
Guiseley FC	1
Emil Dale College	1
Hall Cross	6
Harrison College	1
Hill House	2
High Speed Rail College	1
Keepmoat	1
NCATI	1
New College	15
Ridgewood	121
Wath	3
Whitrose Beauty	5
Sheffield College	1
Apprenticeships	10
	230



Last year our year 13 pupils moved to range of providers in the local area after school:

University	68	69%
(Russel group)		26%
Apprenticeship	16	16%
(Confirmed Degree)		25%
Forces	1	1%
Gap Year	4	4%
Full Time Employment	3	3%
Continuing in Level 3 education	1	1%
TBC	5	5%

6. Opportunities for access

The school offers the six provider encounters required by law and a number of additional events, integrated into the school careers programme.

We will offer providers an opportunity to come into school to speak to pupils or their parents or carers. We offer Career spotlights during our staggered lunch times from 12:25pm-14:00pm where students can speak to a range of providers and employers.

	Autumn Term	Spring Term	Summer Term
Year 8	Careers Spotlights	NAW Activities NCW Activities Careers Spotlights Industrial Cadets	Careers Spotlights Industrial Cadets
Year 9	Careers Spotlights	NAW Activities NCW Activities Careers Spotlights Careers Fair	Careers Spotlights
Year 10	Careers Spotlights	NAW Activities NCW Activities SEND Employability Skills - DWP Careers Spotlights Careers Fair	Careers Spotlights Work Experience DWP – Apprenticeship Support Progress Careers One-one guidance
Year 11	Careers Spotlights DWP – Apprenticeship Support Progress Careers One-one guidance	NAW Activities NCW Activities SEND Employability Skills - DWP Careers Spotlights Careers Fair DWP – Apprenticeship Support Progress Careers One-one guidance	Careers Spotlights DWP – Apprenticeship Support Progress Careers One-one guidance
Year 12	Induction Week Apprenticeships University Talks	NAW Activities NCW Activities Careers Fair University Talks	UCAS Launch UCAS Discovery Visit University Talks
Year 13	Apprenticeships Apprenticeship Focus Group University Talks	NAW Activities NCW Activities Careers Fair Apprenticeship Focus Group	UCAS Applications Apprenticeship Focus Group

7. Management of provider access requests

All requests for access to students will be considered and granted if deemed suitable. A provider wishing to request access should contact Mr Hodgson (senior leader student engagement and progression) using the 'Contact Us' link on the school website [Ridgewood School - Contact Us](#) giving as much notice as possible.

8. Premises and facilities

The school will make the dining hall stand, classrooms or private meeting room 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 or a member of their team.

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

Providers are welcome to leave a copy of their prospectus or other relevant course literature at the main reception and this will be sent to all of our Careers areas – Careers Library in the main school, Our Sixth Form Libraries and our careers office.

9. Safeguarding

Our safeguarding and child protection policy outlines the school's procedure for checking the identity and suitability of visitors. Education and training providers will be expected to adhere to this policy.

10. 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

11. Approval and review

This policy is reviewed/updated on an annual basis and ratified by Academy Governing Body.