

Rivers Education Support Centre Provider Access Policy Statement

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

Ownership: [Rivers Education Support Centre](#)

Date updated: July 2026

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

Rivers ESC 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. Rivers ESC 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.

Rivers ESC 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

Rivers ESC 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

Rivers ESC 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. We will do this by:

- Our KS4 Wednesday programme where students will do extended work experience or complete a L1 college course in Construction or Catering
- Block work experience for all KS4 students in the spring term
- Termly Employer visits for all of KS3
- Experience of the workplace weekly visits for KS3
- Assemblies for KS3 and KS4 from the Apprenticeship team, local colleges and Employers.
- In addition to this we will run activities during National Apprenticeship Week and National Careers Week

Development

This policy has been developed and is reviewed annually by the Careers Leader Colleen Osborn and the Deputy Head (SLT for careers) Nicky Traynor 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. Rivers ESC 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 the Careers Leader Colleen Osborn. She may be contacted by telephone 01992 534841 or email colleen.osborn@riversesc.herts.sch.uk

Grounds for granting requests for access

Access will be given for providers to attend during timetabled Careers lessons, PSHE assemblies and events that Rivers ESC is arranging. Students may also travel to visit other providers as part of trips organised in partnership with Rivers ESC.

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

Rivers ESC will provide an appropriate room or hall as necessary. All rooms will have computers/laptops and SmartScreen's provided. The Careers Leader (Colleen Osborn) 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 KS3 or KS4 centre who will facilitate.

Live/Virtual encounters

Rivers ESC 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 the senior management team.

Complaints Procedure

Any complaints about this policy should be raised to the SLT for Careers Nicky Traynor (Deputy Head) email: nicky.traynor@riversesc.herts.sch.uk

Nicky Traynor will raise the complaint to Mrs Shelley Hughes the Headteacher of Rivers Education Support Centre.

Monitoring review and evaluation

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

Policy Coordinator: Colleen Osborn (Careers Leader)

Policy Reviewed: July 2026

Providers who have been invited into Rivers ESC to date include:

VolkerWessels UK

MCP property services ltd

Hertford Regional College

Elsa

Destinations of previous pupils from Rivers ESC include:

Hertford Regional College

Harlow College

Capel Manor College

Stansted Airport college

Apprenticeships