Provider Access Legislation guide for schools

THE CAREERS & ENTERPRISE COMPANY

Policy

Schools must publish a policy statement setting out opportunities for providers of technical education and apprenticeships to access Year 8-13 pupils, and to make sure the statement is followed.

The DfE have published a template as part of their statutory guidance that can be found in Appendix A - https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1127489/Careers_guidance_and_access_for_education_and_training_providers_.pdf

Practice

Schools must provide at least six encounters with approved providers of apprenticeships and technical education for all their students:

- Two encounters for pupils during the 'first key phase – KS3' (year 8 or 9) *
- Two encounters for pupils during the 'second key phase – KS4' (year 10 or 11) *
- Two encounters for pupils during the 'third key phase – KS5' (year 12 or 13) **

* **Mandatory for all pupils to attend**
** **Mandatory for the school to put on but optional for pupils to attend**

During the same key phase, schools must always provide encounters with two different providers to meet the legal requirement and the delivery of these encounters must be between 1st September and 28th February for:

- **Year 9** – due to pupils choosing their GCSE options
- **Year 11** – due to pupils making informed decision regarding their post 16 destination

The encounters

To be PAL compliant sessions should be delivered during the school day, be meaningful and contain:

- Information about the provider and the approved technical education qualifications or apprenticeships that the provider offers
- Information about the careers to which those technical education qualifications or apprenticeships might lead
- A description of what learning or training with the provider is like
- Responses to questions from the pupils about the provider or approved technical education qualifications and apprenticeships

Providers

The organisations delivering encounters should be chosen from providers of technical education and apprenticeships but can also include their representatives such as employers who employ apprentices, or the ASK programme but they must provide the minimum information requirements to pupils (see below).

Additional Information

- CEC Key Information – www.careersandenterprise.co.uk/media/p0xaecz4/1592-pal-key-information-doc-v13.pdf
- CEC About PAL – www.careersandenterprise.co.uk/fe-skills/provider-access-legislation/
- If you need more providers or employers to support the delivery of PAL activity, you can use the CEC Provider Directory to search - https://find-activity-provider.careersandenterprise.co.uk/search

If you have any concerns in meeting the PAL criteria for all key stages, please contact your Enterprise Co-Ordinator.