

Provider Access Policy Statement

Ownership: Walthamstow Academy (United Learning)

Date updated: December 2025

Rationale

High quality careers education and guidance in school 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

Walthamstow 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. Walthamstow Academy 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.

Walthamstow Academy endeavors 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

The Walthamstow 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

Walthamstow Academy 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 through providers attending various careers events at the school, such as assemblies in National Apprenticeship Week and National Careers Week. During our four yearly Drop-Down Days, students from Year 7 to 13 will have access to a diverse range of speakers who will deliver workshops and Q+A sessions from a range of sectors. This programme of speakers and workshops will be evaluated using student voice to ensure that sectors of interest for our community are effectively covered.

Development

This policy has been developed and is reviewed annually by the Careers Leader (Vimal Pandya) and Line Manager (Devon Vitalis) 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. Walthamstow 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 Vimal Pandya, Careers Leader. Vimal Pandya may be contacted by email, vimal.pandya@walthamstow-academy.org

Grounds for granting requests for access

Access will be given for providers to attend during school assemblies, timetabled Careers education tutor time sessions, and Careers or Raising Aspirations events that Walthamstow Academy is arranging. Students may also travel to visit providers as part of a trip to be organised in partnership with United Learning.

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

Walthamstow 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 will organise this, working closely with the provider to ensure the facilities are appropriate for the audience. Appropriate safeguarding checks will be carried out. Providers will be met and supervised by a member of staff who will facilitate.



Live/Virtual encounters

Walthamstow 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 (Vimal Pandya) coordinates all provider requests and is responsible to his line manager (Devon Vitalis)

Complaints Procedure

Any complaints about this policy should be raised to our complaints coordinator: Pooja Malhotra (pooja.malhotra@Walthamstow-academy.org)

Monitoring review and evaluation

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

Policy Coordinator: Vimal Pandya

Policy Reviewed: December 2025

Appendix

Providers who have been invited into Walthamstow Academy to date include:

- Access Aspiration (Mayors Fund for London)
- AIM (Education Development Trust)
- ASK Apprenticeships
- Amy Parker from ARC (apprenticeships)
- BEP (Y10 Work Experience)
- Future Leaders Programme
- Ministry of Justice
- Ministry of Defense
- My Game Plan (Professional Interviews)



Destinations of previous pupils from Walthamstow Academy include:

Sixth Form Centres:	Universities:
Walthamstow Academy Sixth Form	University of Edinburgh
City and Islington College Angel	Imperial College London
Leyton Sixth Form College	Kings College London
Highams Park Sixth Form	University of York
Samuel Ward Academy Sixth Form	University College London
Haringey Sixth Form College	Queen Mary University London
Big Creative Education	University of Manchester
Leyton Sixth Form College	University of Leeds
New City College	University of Bristol
George Monoux College	University of Sheffield
London Academy of Excellence	University of Nottingham
	Warwick University

