

THE DUSTON SCHOOL

Provider Access Policy

Approved by: Board of Trustees

Date of Approval: July 2026

Date of Review: July 2027

Rationale

High quality careers education and guidance in school or college is critical to young people's futures. It helps to prepare pupils 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 pupils 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, Higher Technical Qualifications and degree apprenticeships.

Whilst the statutory Provider Access Legislation applies to secondary-aged pupils, The Duston School also promotes early career-related learning within the Primary phase to support aspiration, broaden horizons and develop awareness of the world of work.

Commitment

The Duston School will provide meaningful opportunities for approved education and training providers to engage with pupils. We comply with the Department for Education's Careers Guidance and Access for Education and Training Providers (May 2025), ensuring pupils receive balanced information about technical qualifications, apprenticeships, T Levels, Higher Technical Qualifications, degree apprenticeships and higher education.

Aims

- Ensure pupils understand the full range of progression pathways.
- Provide meaningful encounters with employers and providers.
- Raise aspirations and improve informed decision making.
- Reduce the risk of pupils becoming NEET.
- Support understanding of local and national labour market information.

Pupil Entitlement

The Duston School fully supports the statutory requirement for pupils to have direct access to providers of further education, technical training and apprenticeships.

The school will comply with the legal requirement to provide at least six encounters with approved providers of technical education qualifications or apprenticeships. This includes:

- Two encounters for pupils during Years 8–9
- Two encounters for pupils during Years 10–11
- Two encounters for pupils during Years 12–13

These encounters will be meaningful, planned and recorded as part of the school's careers programme and may take place through assemblies, careers fairs, curriculum lessons, employer workshops, mock interviews, visits to local colleges and universities, employability events, work experience preparation activities, drop-down days and careers events.

Careers Hub

The school's dedicated Careers Hub provides an additional space for employer engagement, provider presentations, careers interviews, apprenticeship information sessions and small-group encounters with pupils.

Development

This policy has been developed and is reviewed annually by the Careers Leader, Diane Fisher, and Line Manager Simon Beal, Senior Assistant Principal, based on current good practice guidelines by the Department for Education.

Links with other policies

This policy supports and is underpinned by key school policies including Careers, Child Protection and Safeguarding, Equality and Diversity, SEND and Work Experience.

Equality and Diversity

Access to other providers is available and promoted to allow all pupils to access information about further education, apprenticeships and technical pathways. The Duston School is committed to encouraging all pupils to make decisions about their future based on impartial information.

Requests for access

Requests for access should be directed to Diane Fisher, Careers Leader.

Email: dfisher@thedustonschool.org

Telephone: 01604 460004. Requests are considered in line with safeguarding, curriculum planning and statutory guidance.

Grounds for granting requests for access

Access will be given for providers to attend school assemblies, timetabled Careers or Character Culture lessons, careers fairs, employability events, raising aspirations activities and curriculum-linked careers sessions organised by The Duston School. Pupils may also travel to visit providers as part of organised trips and visits.

Facilities provided

The Duston School 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 work closely with providers to ensure 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 throughout their visit.

Live / Virtual encounters

The Duston School 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/carers may be invited to attend careers events and provider encounters.

Management

The Careers Leader coordinates all provider requests and is responsible to the Senior Leadership Team line manager.

Complaints Procedure

Any complaints about this policy should be raised to Diane Fisher, Careers Leader, via dfisher@thedustonschool.org.

Complaints will be referred to Simon Beal, Senior Assistant Principal, where appropriate.

Monitoring, Review and Evaluation

The policy is monitored and evaluated annually through:

- Compass+ and Gatsby Benchmark reviews
- Pupil voice and feedback
- Provider and employer feedback
- Destination data
- Careers programme evaluations
- Attendance records for careers events

The Careers Programme and Provider Access Policy are published on the school website.

Policy Coordinator: Simon Beal

Policy Reviewed: June 2026

Appendix – Providers who have been invited into The Duston School include

- Moulton College
- Northampton College
- University of Northampton
- University of Oxford
- Silverstone UTC
- Cummins
- Greencore
- AP Racing
- Saints Foundation
- Staff Select Ltd
- Starting Off
- The Apprentice Academy Limited
- Department for Work and Pensions
- JBC Skills Training Limited
- Northamptonshire Police
- Royal Navy and Royal Marines
- Barclays/Barclaycard
- Wickes
- Spokes Education
- CMC Media
- Red Bull
- Amazon
- EKCO
- NTCF

Destinations of previous pupils include.

- Russell Group Universities
- Degree Apprenticeships
- Higher Apprenticeships
- Employment with training
- Public sector careers
- Technical and vocational training pathways
- Universities across the UK including Oxford, Cambridge, Warwick, Birmingham, Nottingham, Leicester, Sheffield and Northampton.