



Villa Real School
together we achieve

Provider Access Policy Statement

Responsibility: J.Bowe

Date: January 2026

To be reviewed: January 2027

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

Villa Real School 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. Villa Real School 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.

Villa Real School 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

The Villa Real School 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

Villa Real School 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 completed in assemblies in National Apprenticeship Week and National Careers Week, in addition to providers attending careers events at school.

Development

This policy has been developed and is reviewed annually by the Careers Leader, 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 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. Villa Real School 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 Natalie Fitzpatrick. Natalie may be contacted by telephone or email, n.fitzpatrick300@villareal.durham.sch.uk, Tel 01207 503651.

Grounds for granting requests for access

Access will be given for providers to attend during school assemblies, timetabled Careers or PSCE lessons and Raising Aspirations events that Villa Real School arranges. Students may also travel to visit another provider.

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

Villa Real School will provide an appropriate room. All rooms have computers, projectors and screens provided. The Careers Leader or Careers Adviser 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 staff member of Villa Real.

Live/Virtual encounters

Villa Real 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 may be invited to attend the events to meet the providers.

Management

The Careers Leader coordinates all provider requests and is responsible to Jill Bowe, Head Teacher.

Complaints Procedure

Any complaints about this policy should be raised to Natalie Fitzpatrick, email: n.fitzpatrick300@villareal.durham.sch.uk.

Natalie Fitzpatrick will raise the complaint to Jill Bowe, Head Teacher of Villa Real School and follow the school complaints policy.

Monitoring review and evaluation

The Policy is monitored and evaluated annually via the Full Governing Body.

Appendix

Providers who have been invited into Villa Real School to date include:

New College Durham

Derwentside College

Learning for Life

Choices College

Durham Enable

ESPA

NEAS

Dilston College

East Durham College

Gateshead College

Destinations of previous pupils from Villa Real School include:

New College Durham

Derwentside College

Learning for Life

Choices College

Durham Enable

ESPA

NEAS

Dilston