Provider Access Legislation (PAL) Policy

Middlesbrough College Group
Policy Owner: Director of Student Services
Operational Lead: Careers Lead
Review Cycle: Annual
Next Review Date: November 2027

Provider Access Policy Statement

1. Purpose

This policy sets out Middlesbrough College Group's arrangements for managing the access of education, training and apprenticeship providers to students for the purpose of providing information about approved technical education qualifications, apprenticeships, higher technical qualifications, employment routes and other progression opportunities.

The College is committed to ensuring all students receive high quality, impartial careers education, information, advice and guidance (CEIAG) that enables them to make informed decisions about their future learning and career pathways.

This policy fulfils the College's statutory responsibilities under:

- Section 42B of the Education Act 1997
- Provider Access Legislation (PAL)
- The Baker Clause
- Statutory Guidance for Careers Guidance and Access for Education and Training Providers
- Gatsby Benchmarks for Good Career Guidance

The College recognises that students should understand the full range of progression routes available to them, including:

- Apprenticeships
- Higher and Degree Apprenticeships
- Technical Qualifications
- T Levels
- Higher Technical Qualifications (HTQs)
- Further Education

- Higher Education
- Employment and self-employment opportunities

The College will present all pathways impartially and without favour towards any particular route.

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2. Policy Aims

The aims of this policy are to:

- Ensure students have access to information about the full range of progression opportunities available.
- Support students to make informed decisions about their next steps.
- Promote informed choices based on individual aspirations, strengths and labour market information.
- Facilitate meaningful encounters with a broad range of education and training providers.
- Enable providers to engage directly with students.
- Support positive destinations and reduce the risk of students becoming NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training).
- Contribute to the achievement of Gatsby Benchmark 7 and Gatsby Benchmark 8.

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3. Student Entitlement

All students are entitled to:

- Receive independent and impartial careers guidance.
- Learn about technical education qualifications and apprenticeship opportunities.
- Meet providers of further and higher education.
- Meet apprenticeship providers and employers.
- Access up-to-date labour market information.
- Receive support to identify and progress towards their chosen career pathway.

Students will be given opportunities to engage with providers through:

- Careers fairs

- Apprenticeship events
- Progression events
- Employer engagement activities
- Industry insight sessions
- Workshops and seminars
- Curriculum enrichment activities
- Tutorials and personal development programmes
- Individual careers guidance interviews
- Virtual encounters where appropriate

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4. Provider Access Opportunities

The College will provide reasonable access to a wide range of education and training providers throughout the academic year.

Opportunities may include:

Activity	**Audience**
Careers and Progression Fairs	All students
Apprenticeship Events	All students
Industry and Employer Talks	Relevant curriculum areas
Technical Education Presentations	All students
University and Higher Technical Education Events	Level 3 and above students
Tutorial and Enrichment Sessions	Identified student groups
Targeted Progression Activities	Priority cohorts

The College will actively encourage participation from:

- Further Education providers
- Independent Training Providers
- Apprenticeship providers
- Universities and Higher Education institutions

- Employers and employer representative bodies
- Professional organisations
- Armed Forces careers services
- Voluntary and community sector organisations

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5. Access Arrangements

Providers wishing to request access should contact:

Zara Proudler
Careers Lead

Email: z.proudler@mbro.ac.uk
Telephone: 01642 333477

Requests should include:

- Organisation details
- Intended audience
- Purpose of the engagement
- Proposed format and duration
- Desired dates or times
- Any resource requirements

The College will respond promptly and seek to accommodate requests wherever possible.

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6. Grounds for Granting Access

Access will normally be granted where the activity:

- Supports students' career learning and progression.
- Provides information about approved qualifications, apprenticeships or employment pathways.
- Complements the College's careers programme.
- Supports Gatsby Benchmark delivery.
- Meets safeguarding and health and safety requirements.

The College reserves the right to decline requests where:

- Information presented is not impartial.
- Safeguarding requirements are not met.
- The activity duplicates existing provision without adding value.
- Operational constraints prevent safe or effective delivery.

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7. Facilities Available

The College can provide, subject to availability:

- Classrooms
- Conference facilities
- Lecture theatres
- Demonstration areas
- Workshop spaces
- ICT facilities
- Audio visual equipment
- Virtual delivery platforms

Providers will be supported by the Careers Team and relevant curriculum staff to ensure activities are effectively planned and delivered.

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8. Safeguarding

Middlesbrough College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all students.

All external providers must adhere to:

- College safeguarding procedures
- Visitor protocols
- Health and safety requirements
- Equality, Diversity and Inclusion expectations

Where required, providers will be supervised by a member of staff throughout their visit.

Any safeguarding concerns arising during visits must be reported immediately in accordance with College safeguarding procedures.

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9. Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

The College is committed to ensuring equal access to provider encounters for all students, regardless of:

- Age
- Disability
- Gender
- Race
- Religion or belief
- Sexual orientation
- Socio-economic background
- Additional learning needs

Provider access arrangements will be designed to ensure all students can participate and benefit fully from progression activities.

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10. Careers Programme

Provider access forms part of the College's wider careers programme, which includes:

- One-to-one careers guidance interviews
- Employer encounters
- Work experience and industry placements
- Labour market information sessions
- Apprenticeship guidance
- UCAS and higher education support
- Enterprise and entrepreneurship activities
- Progression planning interviews

The College measures the impact of its careers programme through:

- Student feedback

- Destination data
- Gatsby Benchmark assessments
- Quality assurance activities
- Strategic Careers Group reviews

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11. Monitoring and Evaluation

The implementation and effectiveness of this policy will be reviewed annually by:

- Careers Lead
- Director of Student Services
- Strategic Careers Group

Monitoring will include:

- Number and range of provider encounters
- Student participation rates
- Feedback from students and providers
- Destination outcomes
- Gatsby Benchmark achievement
- Compliance with Provider Access Legislation

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12. Complaints

Any concerns regarding provider access should initially be directed to:

Zara Proudler
Careers Lead
z.proudler@mbro.ac.uk

Where concerns cannot be resolved informally, complaints will be managed through the College's formal complaints procedure.

Approval and Review

Version	Date
Version 2.0	12/11/2026
Approved By	Director of Student Services
Policy Lead	Careers Lead
Review Frequency	Annual