



Provider Access Policy Statement

Equal opportunities lie at the heart of all that we do at Silverwood School. We are committed to ensuring that every member of the school community is given the same chance as any other to access the services and support of the school

We have carefully considered and analysed the impact of this policy on equality and the possible implications for pupils with protected characteristics, as part of our commitment to meet the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) requirement to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations.

This policy is designed to meet the needs of all pupils, working through pre-formal, semi-formal and formal curricula. It is inclusive of students who function at early/preverbal levels of language and communication, through to those who express themselves verbally and in writing. The policy is designed to be child-centred and to make sure as far as is possible that pupils understand what is happening in their lives, why, and what options are available to them

Approved by:	Careers Leader	Date: March 2025
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Last reviewed on:	March 2025 (ratified by FGB April 2025)
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Next review by:	March 2026
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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

Silverwood 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. Silverwood 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.

Silverwood 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 Silverwood 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

Silverwood 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 done in assemblies throughout the year, during Activity Week, as part of Work Experience week, as part of transition and moving up sessions and through specific Life skills lessons, in addition to providers attending careers events at school.

Development

This policy has been developed and is reviewed annually by the Careers Leader and Line Manager (**Emma Boore and Beth Jones**) 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. Silverwood 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 **Emma Boore**, Careers Leader. **Emma Boore** may be contacted by telephone or email, **emmaboore@silverwood.wilts.sch.uk** , Tel **01249 650435**.

Grounds for granting requests for access

Access will be given for providers to attend during school assemblies, timetabled Careers or Life Skills lessons, and Careers events that Silverwood School is arranging. Students may also travel to visit another provider as part of the trip to be organised in partnership with Silverwood School.

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

Silverwood School will provide an appropriate room or assembly hall to be agreed. Rooms that have computers, projectors and screens can be made available on request. Computer rooms can also be arranged. The Careers Leader and lead site staff 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 member of the school team who will facilitate.

Live/Virtual encounters

Silverwood 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 his/her senior management line manager.

Complaints Procedure

Any complaints about this policy should be raised to **Beth Jones**, email: **bethjones@silverwood.wilts.sch.uk**.

Beth Jones will raise the complaint to Mike Loveridge, Director of Learning of Silverwood School.

Monitoring review and evaluation

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

Policy Coordinator: Beth Jones

Policy Reviewed: March 2023

Appendix

Providers who have been invited into Silverwood School to date include:

Fairfield Farm College

Wiltshire College – Salisbury

Wiltshire College – Trowbridge

Wiltshire College – Chippenham

Wiltshire College – Lackham

Community Connect

Exeter House

Destinations of previous pupils from Silverwood School include:

Fairfield Farm College

Wiltshire College – Salisbury

Wiltshire College – Trowbridge

Wiltshire College – Chippenham

Wiltshire College – Lackham

Star College

Fortune Centre