

Provider Access Policy



Groveside
School

Updated September 2026

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 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 and Higher Technical Qualifications.

Commitment

Groveside School is committed to ensuring there is an opportunity for a range of education and training providers to access pupils, for the purpose of informing them about approved technical education qualifications and apprenticeships. Groveside School is fully aware of the responsibility to set pupils 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.

Groveside School endeavours to ensure that all pupils 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 pupils to understand the full range of education and training options, and the Provider Access Legislation, January 2023).

Aims

Groveside School policy for access to other education and training providers has the following aims:

- To develop the knowledge and awareness of our pupils 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 pupils becoming NEET (Young people not in education, employment or training).

Pupil Entitlement

Groveside School fully supports the statutory requirement for pupils 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 in National Apprenticeship Week and National Careers Week, in addition to attending careers events, workshops at school and pupils attending part-time courses at further education providers.

Development

This policy has been developed and is reviewed annually by the Careers Leader and SLT 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 pupils to access information about other providers of further education and apprenticeships. Groveside 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 Lisa McCarthy, Careers Leader. Lisa McCarthy may be contacted by telephone or email, lisa.mccarthy@grovesideschool.co.uk, Tel. 01183 744556

Grounds for granting requests for access

Access will be given for providers to attend during school assemblies, timetabled Careers or Life lessons, and Careers or Raising Aspirations events that Groveside School is arranging. Pupils may also travel to visit another provider as part of trips to be organised in partnership with other Outcomes First schools.

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

Groveside School will provide an appropriate classroom or communal space as agreed. All rooms have computers 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 to the audience. Appropriate safeguarding checks will be carried out. Providers will be met and supervised by the Careers Leader who will facilitate.

Live/Virtual encounters

Groveside School will consider live online encounters with providers where requested, and these may be broadcast into classrooms or the school assembly/dining room. 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 their SLT manager.

Complaints Procedure

Any complaints about this policy should be raised to Mary Rome, Headteacher.

email: mary.rome@grovesideschool.co.uk

Monitoring review and evaluation

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

Policy Coordinator: Lisa McCarthy

Policy Reviewed: September 2026

Appendix

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

Ready Pop - Music

Rock Steady – Music

Stanley Flaherty - Apprentice Futures Adviser

Sarah Deville - DeVille's School of Driving | Driving School in Hook.

Tony Hart – Wellington College, Ex Military – Armed Forces Week

Destinations of previous pupils from Groveside School include:

Farnborough College of Technology

The Green Room College, Windsor

New Meanings College, Reading

Orchard Therapeutic Farm