

Date updated: July 2026

Introduction

This policy statements sets out Coombe Dean School's arrangements for managing the access of providers to the School for the purpose of giving them information about the provider's education or training offer. This completed with the School's legal obligations under Section 42B of the Education Act 1997. This access statement will be reviewed annually

Careers Lead – Mrs Lara Sutherland (Associate Assistant Headteacher)

Student Entitlement

We fully support 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 in National Apprenticeship Week and National Careers Week, in addition to providers attending careers events at school or at each Trust school.

All students in Year 7 to 13 are entitled:

- To find out about technical education qualifications and apprenticeship opportunities, as part of a careers programme which provides information on the full range of education and training options available at each transition point
- To hear from a range of local providers (universities, colleges, training providers, employers) about the opportunities they offer, including technical education and apprenticeships – through events, assemblies, group workshops and taster events
- To understand how to make applications for the full range of academic and technical courses

For students of compulsory school age these encounters are mandatory and there will be a minimum of two encounters for students during the 'first Key Phase' (Years 8 to 9) and two encounters for students during the 'second Key Phase' (Years 10 to 11). For students in the 'third Key Phase' (Years 12 to 13), particularly those that have not yet decided on their next steps, there are two more provider encounters available during this period, which are optional for students to attend.

These provider encounters will be scheduled during the main School hours and the provider will be given a reasonable amount of time to, as a minimum:

- Share information about both the provider and the approved technical education qualification and apprenticeships that the provider offers

- Explain what career routes those options could lead to provide insights into what it might be like to learn or train with that provider (including the opportunity to meet staff and students from the provider)
- Answer questions from students

Meaningful Provider Encounters

One encounter is defined as one meeting/session between students and one provider. Meaningful online engagement is also an option, and we are open to providers that are able to provide live online engagement with our students.

Previous providers

In previous terms/years we have invited the following providers and employers from the local area to speak to our students:

- Duchy College
- Skills Group Training Provider
- Marjon's University
- Babcock/Princess Yachts
- Plymouth University
- Arts University Plymouth
- Building Plymouth
- City College
- Arts University Plymouth
- Focus Training

Destinations of Our Students leaving July 2025

Last year, Year 11 students moved to a range of providers in the local area after School:

- 36% remained at CDS Sixth Form
- 28% are attending City College Plymouth
- 8% are on Apprenticeships
- 8% are attending Various local Sixth Forms
- 5% are attending a Training Provider (Achievement Training, Skills Group)
- 5% are attending Arts University Plymouth (pre-Degree Programmes)
- 2% are attending Duchy College
- 2% are attending MPCT

- The remaining 6% are attending Exeter College, Exeter Maths College, Access Creative, CTSW, Discovery College

Last year, Year 13 students moved to a range of providers in the local area after School:

- Higher Education, including Plymouth and Exeter Universities
- Arts University Plymouth
- Forces (Army, Navy, RAF)
- Focus Group Training Provider

Management of Provider Access Requests

Procedure

Requests for access should be directed to Mrs L Sutherland, Careers Leader.

Mrs Sutherland may be contacted by telephone or email, lsutherland@coombedean.co.uk or careers@coombedean.co.uk , Tel 01752 406961

Grounds for granting requests for access

Access will be given for providers to attend during school assemblies, timetabled Careers or Personal Development lessons, and Careers or Raising Aspirations events that Coombe Dean is arranging. Students may also travel to visit another provider as part of the trip to be organised in partnership with the school or trust.

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

The 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 or Careers support worker 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 Careers Team who will facilitate.

Complaints

Any complaints with regards to provider access can be raised following the School's Complaints Procedure.