



Provider Access Policy Statement

UTC Reading
September 2025

Rationale

High quality careers education and guidance is critical to our 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

UTC Reading 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. UTC Reading 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.

UTC Reading endeavours to ensure that all students are aware of all routes to higher skills and can 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 UTC Reading 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.

Student Entitlement

UTC Reading fully supports the statutory requirement for students to have direct access to other providers of further education training, technical training and apprenticeships. UTC Reading will comply with the legal requirement as follows:

- To put on two encounters for pupils during the 'second key phase' (Year 10 or 11) that are mandatory for all pupils to attend
- To put on two encounters for pupils during the 'third key phase' (Year 12 or 13) that are mandatory for the school to put on but optional for pupils to attend.

This will be done via assemblies at key points in the year, in addition to providers attending careers events at UTC Reading such as Year 12 Destinations Day.

Management of Provider Access Requests

A provider wishing to request access should contact

Jennie Thomson, Headteacher, UTC Reading

Telephone: 0118 938 1020

Email: jennie.thomson@utcreading.org.uk

Opportunities for Access

A number of events, integrated into the school careers programme, will offer providers an opportunity to come into school to speak to pupils or their parents/guardians such as but not limited to;

- Careers & Destinations Exhibition (Careers Fair)
- Lunchtime Careers Stands
- Curriculum Talks & Classroom Projects
- Careers Talks & Workshops
- Whole School Project Days
- Employability Skills Support (E.G. CV Workshops and Mock Interviews)
- Post 16 Next Steps Evening
- Post 18 Destinations Day and Evening
- Specialist Weeks e.g. National Apprenticeship Week
- Careers and Futures Curriculum Programme

Premises and Facilities

The school will make the main hall, classrooms or private meeting rooms available for discussions between the provider and the students, as appropriate to the activity. The school will also make available AV and other specialist equipment to support provider presentations. This will all be discussed and agreed in advance of the visit with the Head of Employer Engagement or a member of the Careers Team.

Providers are welcome to leave a copy of their prospectus or other relevant course literature in the Careers Hub and Library. We will additionally be happy to widely promote and advertise any vacancies which you may have for possible employment or apprenticeship opportunities. The Careers Hub is available to students throughout the day, and they can access resources during their own time, or within small group appointments.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The board of Governors and Headteacher will monitor the operation and effectiveness of the UTC's Policy Statement on Provider Access.

Date of Next Review: September 2026