

BELLINGHAM

PARTNERSHIP OF SCHOOLS

Provider Access Statement

2026-27



Approved by:	Governing Body	Date:	September 2026
Last review date:	May 2024	Next review date:	September 2027
Policy applies to:	Bellingham Primary School	No	Bellingham Middle School Yes

1. Aims

At Bellingham Middle School we aim to provide all our pupils, but specifically those in Year 8, with meaningful opportunities to explore a wide range of future options.

As a school we aim to:

- Develop knowledge and awareness among our pupils of all career pathways available to them, at an age and stage appropriate level.
- Support pupils in learning more about opportunities for their future.
- Reduce future risk of pupils becoming NEET.

2. Statutory requirements

Schools are required to ensure that there is an opportunity for a range of education and training providers to access students in years 8 to 13 for the purposes of informing them about approved technical education, qualifications or apprenticeships. As a school with provision that concludes at the end of Year 8, we meet the requirements to provide encounters with education or training providers.

This is outlined in:

- Section 42B of the [Education Act 1997](#)
- [Education and Skills Act 2008](#)
- [The School Information \(England\) Regulations 2008](#)
- The [Skills and Post-16 Education Act 2022](#)
- Guidance from the Department for Education (DfE) on [careers guidance and access for education and training providers](#)

This policy shows how our school complies with these requirements.

3. Pupil entitlement

All pupils in year 8 to year 13 are entitled to a range of interactions and encounters across those six years of education. At Bellingham Middle School, pupils in Year 8 are introduced to this entitlement to:

- Find out about further education training, technical education qualifications and apprenticeship opportunities as part of our careers programme, which provides information on the full range of education and training options available at each transition point
- Hear from local providers about the opportunities they offer, including technical education and apprenticeships, e.g. through activities and events, assemblies and other taster events
- Understand how and when to make applications for the full range of academic and technical courses
- Have meaningful encounters with providers

These encounters must happen for a reasonable period of time during the standard school day.

Access to providers is available and promoted to allow all pupils to access information about other providers of further education and apprenticeships. We are committed to encouraging all pupils to make decisions about their future based on impartial information.

Pupils in year 8 are offered at least one encounter with an education or training provider. This may be a future high school, or a wider training provider.

3.1 Meaningful encounters

Our school is committed to providing meaningful encounters for our pupils. A meaningful encounter:

- Is where the pupil can explore what it is like to learn, develop and succeed in that environment
- May involve meeting both staff and learners
- Has a clear purpose
- Is underpinned by learning outcomes appropriate to the needs of the pupils
- Involves a 2-way interaction
- Includes information about the provider, such as their recruitment and selection processes, the qualifications that provider offers and the careers these could lead to.
- Describes what learning or training with provider is like.