PROVIDER ACCESS POLICY

Status: Statutory

Member of Staff Responsible: Associate Senior Lead – Personal Development

Related Policies:

- CEIAG Policy
- Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy
- Equal Opportunities Policy – Students

Implementation date:

Reviewed date: September 2026

Next review date: September 2027

Introduction

This policy statement sets out the UTC's arrangements for managing the access of providers to students at the UTC for the purpose of giving them information about the provider's education or training offer. This complies with the UTC's legal obligations under section 42B of the Education Act 1997 (the 'Baker Clause'), as inserted by the Technical and Further Education Act 2017 and amended by the Skills and Post-16 Education Act 2022, and with the DfE's statutory guidance Careers Guidance and Access for Education and Training Providers (most recently updated June 2026).

This policy is published on the UTC's website, alongside the CEIAG Policy, in line with Gatsby Benchmark 1.

Student Entitlement

All students in Years 9-13 are entitled:

- to find out about technical education qualifications and apprenticeships 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 about the opportunities they offer, including technical education and apprenticeships – through options events, assemblies and group discussions and taster events;
- to understand how to make applications for the full range of academic and technical courses.

For pupils of compulsory school age these encounters are mandatory and there will be a minimum of two encounters for pupils during the 'first key phase' (year 8 to 9) and two encounters for pupils during the 'second key phase' (year 10 to 11). For pupils in the 'third key phase' (year 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 pupils to attend.

As UTC Derby Pride Park admits students from Year 9, the two first key phase encounters will both take place during Year 9, and – in line with statutory deadlines – the UTC will ensure these have taken place by 28 February each academic year. Within each key phase, encounters will be arranged with two different providers, as required by the legislation.

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 pupils from the provider);
- answer questions from pupils.

Encounters that take place outside of the standard UTC day, such as evening parents' events, do not count towards fulfilment of the six statutory encounters. All qualifying encounters are recorded in Compass+ against the relevant Gatsby Benchmark, allowing progress against this legal requirement to be monitored and evidenced, including for Ofsted.

Equality of Access

All students, including those with SEND, looked-after children, and other vulnerable or disadvantaged groups, are entitled to the same opportunities to attend meaningful provider encounters. Where a student's circumstances (for example, an EHCP review, medical appointment, or other individual need) would prevent them attending a scheduled encounter, the Careers Lead will arrange an alternative opportunity so that their entitlement is not missed.

Management of Provider Access Requests

Procedure

A provider wishing to request access should contact Miss Kerry Warburton, Associate School Lead – Personal Development

Telephone: 01332 477400

Email: kwarburton@utcderby.org.uk or derbyadmin@utcderby.org.uk

All visiting providers are subject to the UTC's usual visitor safeguarding procedures, including sign-in and, where appropriate, identity checks, in line with the Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy. Providers will be met and supervised by a staff member of UTC Derby Pride Park throughout their visit.

Opportunities for Access

A number of events, integrated into the UTC careers programme, will offer providers an opportunity to come into the UTC to speak to students and/or their parents/carers:

	Autumn Term	Spring Term	Summer Term
Year 9	Global Cultural Learning; Unifrog Launch; Employer Projects; Skills Builder Programme; Enrichment Activities; Career Pathway Review; Volunteering Opportunities; Employer Insight Days	Global Cultural Learning; Unifrog Activities; Employer Projects; Skills Builder Programme; Enrichment Activities; Career Pathway Review; Careers Fair; Volunteering Opportunities; Employer Insight Days	Global Cultural Learning; Unifrog Activities; Employer Projects; Skills Builder Programme; Enrichment Activities; Career Pathway Review; Volunteering Opportunities; Employer Insight Days
Year 10	Global Cultural Learning; Unifrog Launch; Employer Projects; Skills Builder Programme; Enrichment Activities; Career Pathway Review; Personal Guidance Interviews; Work Experience Opportunities; Volunteering Opportunities; Employer Insight Days	Global Cultural Learning; Unifrog Activities; Employer Projects; Skills Builder Programme; Enrichment Activities; Career Pathway Review; Careers Fair; Personal Guidance Interviews; Work Experience Opportunities; Volunteering Opportunities; Employer Insight Days; Labour Market Information	Global Cultural Learning; Unifrog Activities; Employer Projects; Skills Builder Programme; Enrichment Activities; Career Pathway Review; Work Experience Opportunities; Post-16 Opportunities, Volunteering Opportunities; Employer Insight Days; Labour Market Information

Year 11	Global Cultural Learning; Tutorial Programme; Unifrog Launch; Employer Projects; Skills Builder Programme; Enrichment Activities; Career Pathway Review; Post-16 Opportunities; Destinations Support; Mock Interviews; Volunteering Opportunities; Employer Insight Days; Labour Market Information;	Global Cultural Learning; Tutorial Programme; Unifrog Activities; Employer Projects; Skills Builder Programme; Enrichment Activities; Career Pathway Review; Careers Fair; Post-16 Opportunities; Destinations Support; Volunteering Opportunities; Employer Insight Days; Labour Market Information	Global Cultural Learning; Tutorial Programme; Unifrog Activities; Employer Projects; Skills Builder Programme; Enrichment Activities; Post-16 Opportunities; Destinations Support; Volunteering Opportunities; Employer Insight Days; Labour Market Information
Year 12	Global Cultural Learning; Unifrog Launch; Employer Projects; Skills Builder Programme; Enrichment Activities; Career Pathway Review; Work Experience Opportunities; Volunteering Opportunities; Employer Insight Days; University and Apprenticeship Fairs	Global Cultural Learning; Tutorial Programme; Unifrog Activities; Employer Projects; Skills Builder Programme; Enrichment Activities; Career Pathway Review; Careers Fair; Personal Guidance Interviews; Work Experience Opportunities; Volunteering Opportunities; Employer Insight Days; Labour Market Information	Global Cultural Learning; Tutorial Programme; Unifrog Activities; Employer Projects; Skills Builder Programme; Enrichment Activities; Career Pathway Review; UCAS; Personal Guidance Interviews; Work Experience Opportunities; Post-18 Opportunities; Volunteering Opportunities; Employer Insight Days; Labour Market Information
Year 13	Global Cultural Learning; Tutorial Programme; Unifrog Launch; Employer Projects; Skills Builder Programme; Enrichment Activities; Career Pathway Review; UCAS; Work Experience Opportunities; Post-18 Opportunities; Destinations Support; CV Workshop; Mock Interviews; Volunteering Opportunities; Employer Insight Days; Labour Market Information; University and Apprenticeship Fairs	Global Cultural Learning; Tutorial Programme; Unifrog Activities; Employer Projects; Skills Builder Programme; Enrichment Activities; Career Pathway Review; Careers Fair; UCAS; Work Experience Opportunities; Post-18 Opportunities; Destinations Support; Volunteering Opportunities; Employer Insight Days; Labour Market Information	Global Cultural Learning; Tutorial Programme; Unifrog Activities; Employer Projects; Skills Builder Programme; Enrichment Activities; Work Experience Opportunities; Post-18 Opportunities; Destinations Support; Volunteering Opportunities; Employer Insight Days

Please speak to Miss Warburton to identify the most suitable opportunity for you.

Premises and Facilities

The UTC will make the MPS, classrooms or private meeting rooms available for discussions between the provider and students, as appropriate to the activity. The UTC 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. Providers are requested to either forward

presentations in advance of delivery or to bring their own device. ICT support will be available.

Providers are welcome to leave a copy of their prospectus or other relevant course literature with the Careers Lead to support our students on their Future Pathways Programme.

Key Changes for 2026-2027

This page summarises the substantive changes made during this review. All changed or new text is also highlighted in yellow within the body of the policy.

- Cover/dates: Review date and Next Review date updated to September 2026 and September 2027. A proper front page and Related Policies list (CEIAG Policy, Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy, Equal Opportunities Policy – Students) added.
- Introduction: Legal reference expanded to include the Technical and Further Education Act 2017 and the Skills and Post-16 Education Act 2022 (which introduced the six-encounter requirement) and cross-referenced to the DfE's June 2026 statutory guidance.
- New sentence added confirming this policy is published on the UTC website alongside the CEIAG Policy, per Gatsby Benchmark 1.
- Student Entitlement: New clarification added that, as the UTC admits from Year 9, both first key phase encounters take place within Year 9 and must be completed by the statutory 28 February deadline. Also clarified that encounters within a key phase must involve two different providers.
- Student Entitlement: New paragraph added confirming that out-of-hours events do not count towards the six statutory encounters, and that qualifying encounters are recorded in Compass+ for monitoring and Ofsted evidence.
- New ‘Equality of Access’ section added, confirming that SEND, looked-after and other vulnerable or disadvantaged students are entitled to the same provider encounters, with alternative arrangements made where needed.
- Management of Provider Access Requests: New paragraph added on visitor safeguarding procedures for providers, cross-referenced to the Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy.