



Orchard Hill College PROVIDER ACCESS POLICY STATEMENT

<i>Written by:</i>	OHC SLT
<i>Reviewed by:</i>	Quality, Standards & Safeguarding Committee
<i>Date of last review:</i>	Spring 2025
<i>Date of next review:</i>	Spring 2026

Provider Access Policy Statement

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 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-18 including Apprenticeships and Vocational Qualifications (where applicable).

COMMITMENT

Orchard Hill College is committed to ensuring opportunities for a range of education and training providers to access students, for the purpose of informing them about approved education qualifications and apprenticeships. Orchard Hill College 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 vocational.

Orchard Hill College aims to ensure that all students are aware of all routes to developing their skills and are able to access information on vocational options and apprenticeships, in accordance with our responsibilities as set out in the [Education Act 1997](#), the [Skills and Post-16 Act 2022](#) and in guidance from the Department for Education (DfE) on [careers guidance and access for education and training providers](#).

AIMS

As a specialist post-16 provider, we aim to:

- Develop the knowledge and awareness of our students of all career pathways available to them, including vocational qualifications and apprenticeships.
- Support young people to be able to learn more about opportunities for education and training outside of college before making crucial choices about their future options.
- Reduce drop out from courses and avoid the risk of students becoming NEET (not in education, employment or training).

This policy sets out how we will meet our legal requirements and ensure that every College student has access to meaningful encounters with providers of further

education, vocational training and apprenticeships, in order to further support them to achieve their outcomes and progress into adult life. The policy has been developed by OHC's Head of Careers alongside the College Senior Leadership Team (SLT) and is reviewed annually.

This policy should be read in conjunction with the Child Protection Adult Protection & Safeguarding Policy, the Visiting Speakers Policy and the Equality, Diversity & Inclusion Policy. A full list of linked policies is given at the end of the document.

Access to other providers is available and promoted to allow all students to access information about other providers of further education and apprenticeships. Orchard Hill College is committed to encouraging all students to make decisions about their future based on impartial information.

STUDENT ENTITLEMENT

Orchard Hill College fully supports the statutory requirement for students to have direct access to other providers of further education training, vocational training and apprenticeships. The College will comply with the legal requirement to put on at least six encounters with providers of approved vocational education qualifications or apprenticeships. This will be done via Transition Events held by each regional centre over the course of the year, as well as provider attendance at careers fairs held at each regional centre.

REQUESTS FOR ACCESS

Requests for access should be directed to:

Melissa Shepherd (Head of Work-Based Learning): mshepherd@orchardhill.ac.uk
Tracy Hicklin (Head of Careers): thicklin@orchardhill.ac.uk / 07384 460255

Grounds for granting requests for access

Access will be given for providers to attend during College events including Careers Transition events arranged by Orchard Hill College. Students may also travel to visit another provider as part of the trip to be organised in partnership with Orchard Hill College.

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

Orchard Hill College will provide an appropriate room to be agreed. All rooms have computers, projectors or screens provided. The Head of Careers 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 College team who will facilitate.

Live/virtual encounters

Orchard Hill College will consider live online encounters with providers where requested, and these may be broadcast into classrooms. Technology checks in advance will be required to ensure compatibility of systems.

Parents and carers

Parental involvement is encouraged, and parents/carers may be invited to attend the events to meet the providers.

Appendix

Providers who have been invited into *Orchard Hill College* to date include:

Below provided as an example

- Green Corridor
- Amazing Apprenticeships
- David Game College
- BBC Young reporters
- Thames Water
- Kier Highways
- Guys and St Thomas Hospital
- Spear Training
- Bede House
- Higgins
- Reed in Partnership
- Time Based Arts
- Unity Works
- Care Trade

Destinations of previous students from Orchard Hill College include:

Below provided as an example

- Merton College
- Croydon College
- Sutton & District Training
- Lewisham College
- Carshalton College
- JACE Apprenticeship Training
- Guys and St Thomas Hospital