



**Access to providers Policy
2025 - 2026**

**Reviewed and approved by Trustees:
December 2025
Next Review: Summer term 2026**

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Introduction

This policy statement sets out Chatten Free School's arrangements for managing the access of providers to the school for the purpose of giving them information about the provider's education and training offer. This complies with the school and college's legal obligations under Section 42B of the Education Act 1997.

Pupil's entitlement

All pupils in years 8 to 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.

Providers are reminded that we are a highly specialist SEN school for young autistic people with very complex needs who will need a highly specialist provision upon leaving school. Therefore, it would be very unlikely that technical education qualifications and apprenticeships opportunities would be appropriate for our pupils. We will provide these opportunities where appropriate and meaningful for the pupils, whilst ensuring they have access to a comprehensive, individualised careers programme and advice. Please contact Nicola Knights (details below) for more information on the pupil's needs and abilities.

Previous providers

In previous years we have worked with the following providers:

- Level Best
- REACH
- RDA
- Rainbow Rural

Destinations of our pupils

We are a very new school and have only had 1 pupil leave our setting at year 14. We are currently beginning the transitions of our 3 year 14 pupils.

Our year 14 pupils have moved or are looking to move onto to a range of social providers or specialist colleges, including, but not limited to:

- Chelmsford College (INSPIRE specialist provision)
- Bright Lives
- West Suffolk College (Specialist provision)
- Aldanat Care
- New Skills Centre

Management of provider access requests

Procedure

A provider wishing to request access should contact Nicola Knights, Careers Lead, via email: n.knights@chattenfreeschool.co.uk or via phone 01376433150.

Opportunities for access

There are multiple opportunities and events integrated into our careers programme which may provide an exciting opportunity to speak to pupils and/or their parents/carers.

Every academic year looks different at Chatten Free School. It is therefore recommended that providers contact Nicola Knights (details above) to identify the most appropriate opportunity to attend the school.

Premises and facilities

The school will make an appropriate area available for discussion between the provider and pupils, where appropriate and meaningful for the pupils. The school will also support provider's presentations with the relevant technology. This will all be discussed and agreed in advance of the visit with the Careers Lead.

Providers are welcome to leave a copy of their relevant brochures and printed materials. These will be made available to pupils and their parents/carers.