

## **Grace Academy Darlaston: Provider Access Policy Statement**

**Ownership: Grace Academy Darlaston/TOVE Learning Trust**

**Date updated: Oct 2025**

### **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-16 and post-18 including wider technical education options such as T-Levels and Higher Technical Qualifications.

### **Commitment**

Grace Academy Darlaston 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. The Academy 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.

Grace Academy Darlaston endeavours to ensure that all students are aware of all routes to higher skills and are able to 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 Grace Academy Darlaston 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 (Young people not in education, employment, or training).

### **Student Entitlement**

Grace Academy Darlaston fully supports the statutory requirement for students to have direct access to other providers of further education training, technical training, and apprenticeships. The school will comply with the new legal requirement to put on at least six encounters with providers of approved technical education qualifications or apprenticeships. This will be done in assemblies in National Apprenticeship Week and National Careers Week, in addition to providers attending careers events at school.

### **Development**

This policy has been developed and is reviewed annually by the Careers Leader and Line Manager based on current good practice guidelines by the Department for Education.

### **Links with other policies**

It supports and is underpinned by key school policies including those for Careers, Child Protection, Equality and Diversity, and SEND.

### **Equality and Diversity**

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

### **Requests for access**

Requests for access should be directed to Marcia Miller, Careers Leader. Marcia Miller can be contacted by telephone, 0121 568 3300, or email, [MarciaMiller@darlaston.graceacademy.org.uk](mailto:MarciaMiller@darlaston.graceacademy.org.uk) .

### **Grounds for granting requests for access**

Access will be given for providers to attend during school assemblies, Careers or Raising Aspirations events that Grace Academy Darlaston is arranging, or relevant curriculum lessons via the Head of Department or Leadership team. Students may also travel to visit another provider as part of the trip to be organised in partnership with Grace Academy Darlaston.

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

Grace Academy Darlaston will provide an appropriate room or assembly hall, whereby projectors, screens and speakers are provided. Due to changes in Tove Learning Trust policy, visitors will need to use their own laptops, that ideally contain a HDMI port (though we do have adapters if your device does not have HDMI), to show any PowerPoint or IT/computer- related presentations.

Appropriate safeguarding checks will be carried out. Where applicable, providers will be accompanied by the Careers Leader or relevant member of staff while in the academy.

### **Live/Virtual encounters**

Grace Academy Darlaston will consider live online encounters with providers where requested, and these may be broadcast into classrooms or the school assembly hall. Technology checks in advance will be required to ensure compatibility of systems.

## **Parents and Carers**

Parental involvement is encouraged, and parents may be invited to attend events to meet the providers. In addition, parents/carers can also offer to deliver sessions to students or staff, and will be subject to academy protocols pertaining to visiting speakers and organisations.

## **Management**

The Careers Leader coordinates all provider requests and is responsible to his/her senior management line manager.

## **Complaints Procedure**

Any complaints about this policy should be raised in the first instance to Nalene Pates, Associate Assistant Principal of Grace Academy Darlaston, email:

[NalenePates@darlaston.graceacademy.org.uk](mailto:NalenePates@darlaston.graceacademy.org.uk)

Nalene Pates will raise the complaint to Henry Holland, Principal of Grace Academy Darlaston.

## **Monitoring review and evaluation**

The Policy is monitored and evaluated annually via the Local Governing Body.

***Policy Coordinator: Governors***

***Policy Reviewed: October 2025***

## **Appendix**

### **Providers who have been invited into Grace Academy Darlaston to date include:**

Aston University

Birmingham Newman University

Coventry University

Cadent Gas

COLAS UK

Halesowen College

Higgs LLP

In-Comm Training

International Motors

Juniper Training

King Edward VI College Stourbridge

KEM Unisex Salon

LD Training

MSC

Nova Training  
Performance Through People  
Royal Navy  
Sandwell College and Central Saint Michael's Sixth Form  
Transport for West Midlands  
United Living  
University of Law  
University of Wolverhampton  
Walsall College  
Walsall Council  
West Midlands Police

**Destinations of previous pupils from Grace Academy Darlaston include:**

Aston University  
Birmingham City University  
City of Wolverhampton College  
Dudley Sixth  
Grace Academy Darlaston Post 16  
Jaguar Land Rover  
Juniper Training  
Nova Training  
Oakwood Primary School  
Queen Mary's Grammar School  
The Royal School Wolverhampton  
University of Birmingham  
University of Leicester  
University of Reading  
University of Wolverhampton  
Walsall College