



Provider Access Policy Statement

Approved by:	Trustees	Date: October 2023
Last reviewed:	September 2023	

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Our Vision and Ethos

Nishkam schools are Sikh ethos multi faith schools that take a distinctive approach to many traditional faith schools. The Nishkam School Trust education model is led by virtues such as, compassion, humility, service, contentment, optimism, trust and forgiveness. Virtues are prevalent throughout our teaching and learning model and are modelled by our pupils, staff and teachers. Our pupils explore the divine context of humanity and wonder of all creation and also learn from the wisdom of all religions and in doing so explore the infinite human potential to do good unconditionally. We support all pupils and staff to develop aspects of their own religious, spiritual or human identities. In service of God, we pray for guidance in this endeavour and forgiveness for the errors we may make.

1. Aims

This policy statement aims to set out our school's arrangements for managing the access of education and training providers to students for the purpose of giving them information about their offer. It sets out:

- Procedures in relation to requests for access
- The grounds for granting and refusing requests for access
- Details of premises or facilities to be provided to a person who is given access

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 Year 8 to Year 13 for the purposes of informing them about approved technical education, qualifications or apprenticeships.

Schools must provide a minimum of 6 encounters with technical education or training providers to all pupils in years 8 to 13 (see more detail in section 2.1 below).

Schools must also have a policy statement that outlines the circumstances in which education and training providers will be given access to these students.

This is outlined in section 42B of the [Education Act 1997](#), the [Skills and Post-16 Act 2022](#) and on page 43 of 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.

2.1 The 6 encounters schools must offer to all pupils in years 8 to 13

Schools must offer;

- Encounters for pupils during the 'first key phase' (Year 8 or 9) that are mandatory for all pupils to attend and encounters can take place any time during Year 8, and between 1 September and 28th February during Year 9
- Two encounters for pupils during the 'second key phase' (Year 10 or 11) that are mandatory for all pupils to attend and encounters can take place any time during Year 10, and between 1 September and 28th February during Year 11
- Two encounters for pupils during the 'third key phase' (Year 12 or 13) that are mandatory for the school to put on but optional for pupils to attend and encounters can take place any time during Year 12, and between 1st September and 28th February during Year 13

These encounters must happen for a reasonable period of time during the standard school day. Schools can continue to provide complementary experiences, but encounters outside of school hours won't count towards these requirements.

Schools must ask each provider to provide the following information as a minimum:

- Information about the provider and the approved qualifications or apprenticeships they offer
- Information about what careers those qualifications and apprenticeships can lead to
- What learning or training with the provider is like
- Answers to any questions from pupils

2.2 Meaningful provider encounters

- Our school is committed to providing meaningful encounters to all pupils.
- 1 encounter is defined as 1 meeting/session between pupils and 1 provider.
- Meaningful live online engagement is also an option at our school.

3. Student entitlement

All students in Year 8 to Year 13 at Nishkam School are entitled to:

- Find out about 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 a range of local providers about the opportunities they offer, including technical education and apprenticeships, e.g. through activities and events such as options events, assemblies and taster events
- Understand how to make applications for the full range of academic and technical courses

4. Management of provider access requests

4.1 Procedure

A provider wishing to request access should contact the school office and contact the Careers Lead in the first instance.

Nishkam High School Birmingham Telephone: 0121 348 7660 Email: Enquiries.NHSB@nishkamschools.org	Nishkam School West London Telephone: 0203 141 8760 Email: Enquiries.NSWL@nishkamschools.org
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4.2 Opportunities for access

A number of events, integrated into the school careers programme, will offer providers an opportunity to come into school to speak to pupils and/or their parents/carers. Please contact our Careers Lead to identify the most suitable opportunity for you.

4.3 Safeguarding

Our safeguarding/child protection policy outlines the school's procedure for checking the identity and suitability of visitors. Education and training providers will be expected to adhere to this policy.

4.4 Premises and facilities

- The school will make the main hall, classrooms or private meeting rooms available for discussions between the provider and students, as appropriate to the activity.
- The school 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 with the Careers Lead or a member of their team.
- Providers are welcome to leave a copy of their prospectus or other relevant course literature which will be held with the Careers Lead and made available to students where appropriate.

5. Complaints

Any complaints related to provider access can be raised following the school complaints procedure or directly with The Careers & Enterprise Company via provideraccess@careersandenterprise.co.uk

6. Links to other policies

- Safeguarding/child protection policy
- Careers guidance policy
- Curriculum policy

7. Monitoring arrangements

The school's arrangements for managing the access of education and training providers to students are monitored by the School Leader.

This policy will be reviewed by the School Leader annually. At every review, the policy will be approved by the Trust Board.