Ridgewood Community High School: Provider Access Policy Statement

Ownership: Mr I Carden (Careers Lead)
Date updated: September 2026

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.

Commitment

Ridgewood 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 appropriate academic qualifications and routes. We are 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.

Ridgewood endeavours to ensure that all students are aware of all routes to higher skills and can access information on appropriate academic qualifications and routes. (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 Ridgewood 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 appropriate academic qualifications and routes.
- 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

Ridgewood fully supports the statutory requirement for students to have direct access to other providers of further education training, appropriate academic qualifications and routes. The school will comply with the new legal requirement to put on at least six encounters with providers of approved appropriate academic qualifications. This will be done in assemblies in National Apprenticeship Week and National Careers Week, in addition to providers attending careers events at school. All students at Ridgewood will access to a Careers Programme that includes:

- Work Related Learning embedded across the curriculum.
- Careers guidance (individual planning and interviews, information and research activities) action planning and recording achievements.
- Raising aspirations activities
- Vocational taster sessions
- College visits
- Work placements and volunteering (internal/external)
- Visits from and to Post 19 providers
- Transitional review processes

Teachers plan bespoke Careers programmes, which meet the specific needs of all pupils.

Ridgewood also offers a wide range of activities that contribute towards work related opportunities in order to help prepare students effectively for adult life.
The range of activities include:

KS3

- PSHE lessons
- School Assembly topics
- Speech and Language/Communication
- School Council
- Informal Target Setting to provide predicted grades (Entry 1,2 or 3)
- Formal Target Setting

KS4

- ASDAN “Food wise”
- ASDAN “Transforming Aspirations”
- ASDAN "Supporting Aspirations”
- ASDAN “Towards independence”
- ASDAN “Expressive Arts”
- OCR Entry Levels in; English, Maths, Science, History, Geography, PE
- Duke of Edinburgh

KS5

- ASDAN employability
- ASDAN Personal progress
- Duke of Edinburgh
- AQA Unit awards.

Development

This policy has been developed and is reviewed annually by the Careers Leader and Deputy Headteacher for Quality of Education (Mrs L Talbot) 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 appropriate academic qualifications and routes. Ridgewood 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 Mr I Carden, Careers Leader. Mr I Carden may be contacted by telephone or email, i.carden@ridgewood.lancs.sch.uk, Tel: 01282 682316

Grounds for granting requests for access

Access will be given for providers to attend during school assemblies, timetabled Careers or PSHE lessons, and Careers or Raising Aspirations events that Ridgewood is arranging. Students may also travel to visit another provider as part of the trip to be organised in partnership with Ridgewood Community High School.

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

Ridgewood will provide an appropriate room or assembly hall to be agreed. All rooms have computers, projectors and screens provided. Computer rooms can also be arranged. The Careers Leader or Careers Adviser 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 Careers Team who will facilitate.

Live/Virtual encounters
Ridgewood 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 the events to meet the providers.

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

Complaints Procedure
Any complaints about this policy should be raised to Matthew Siney, email: m.siney@ridgewood.lancs.sch.uk
Matthew Siney will raise the complaint to Ian Carden, Head Teacher of Ridgewood Community Highschool.

Monitoring review and evaluation
The Policy is monitored and evaluated annually via the Executive Leadership Team
Policy Coordinator: Mr I Carden (Careers Lead)
Policy Reviewed: September 2026