TIBSHELF COMMUNITY SCHOOL
PROVIDER ACCESS

Ratified: Oct 2026
(Tibshelf Policy)

Rationale

High quality careers education and guidance in school 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

Tibshelf Community School 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. Tibshelf Community School 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.

Tibshelf Community School 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 Provider Access Policy Statement (PAPS) forms part of the schools' careers programme and stems from the Provider Access Legislation (PAL), often referred to as the Baker Clause. This requires schools to give providers of technical education and apprenticeships access to pupils so that they can learn about all progression routes, not just academic pathways (Careers Guidance and Access for Education and Training Providers 2026).

Aims

The Tibshelf Community School 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

Tibshelf Community School 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 provide two encounters in KS3 and two encounters in KS4 with providers of approved technical education qualifications or apprenticeships. This will be done in assemblies and Personal Development Days in addition to providers attending careers events such as careers fairs. Opportunities for meaningful encounters will also be developed within faculty curriculum areas.

These encounters must involve approved providers of:

- Apprenticeships
- T Levels
- Further Education colleges
- Sixth form colleges
- Independent training providers
- Higher technical qualifications and other technical education routes.

Students will therefore be entitled to:

- Learn about technical education qualifications.
- Learn about apprenticeship opportunities.
- Meet providers and current apprentices.
- Understand labour market information and progression routes.

Development

This policy has been developed and is reviewed annually by the Careers Leader (Georgina Thorpe) and the Assistant Headteacher, Pupil Experience (Richard Penford) 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. Tibshelf Community School 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 Georgina Thorpe, Careers Leader by email at g.thorpe@Tibshelf.Derbyshire.sch.uk or by phone on 01773 872391.

Grounds for granting requests for access

Access will be given for providers to attend during school assemblies, timetabled Personal Development lessons, and Careers or Raising Aspirations events such as Personal Development Days and careers fairs. Students may also travel to visit another provider as part of educational visits organised in partnership with Tibshelf Community School.

Approval for providers will be granted based upon:

- Relevance to careers programme objectives.
- Suitability for the year group.
- Safeguarding requirements.

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

Tibshelf Community School will provide an appropriate classroom or assembly hall to be agreed. All rooms have projectors and screens (with sound). Laptops can be provided upon request. Computer rooms can also be arranged if required. The Careers Leader 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 Tibshelf Staff who will facilitate.

Live/Virtual encounters

Tibshelf Community School 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/her line manager (Assistant Headteacher, Pupil Experience).

Complaints Procedure

Any complaints about this policy should be raised to Richard Penford, Assistant Headteacher, Pupil Experience. r.penford@tibshelf.derbyshire.sch.uk
Complaints may then be escalated to the Headteacher where appropriate.

Monitoring review and evaluation

The Policy is monitored and evaluated annually by the Personal Development Team.

Policy Coordinator: Richard Penford

Policy Reviewed: October 2026

Appendix

Providers who have been invited into Tibshelf Community School to date include:

West Nottinghamshire College
Chesterfield College
Ashfield School
Tupton Hall School
Brookfield Community School
Derby University
NHS
British Army, RAF and Royal Navy
Mortgage 1st
DWP
Cadent Gas

DFS
Auto Windscreens
Juniper Training
EON
DBC Apprenticeships
Strata Homes
HSBC
Derbyshire Police
Ministry of Justice

Destinations of previous pupils from Tibshelf Community School include:

West Nottinghamshire College
Chesterfield College
Ashfield School
Tupton Hall School
Bilborough College
Swanwick Hall School
David Nieper Academy
Landmarks Specialist College
Juniper Training
Broomfield College
British Army
RAF
National College for Motorsport
St Mary's Catholic High School
Confetti – Institute of Creative Technologies