St John Plessington Catholic College

Provider Access Policy

2026–2027

Always Faithful to Christ

1. Purpose and legal framework

This statement sets out how St John Plessington Catholic College (SJP) manages requests from education and training providers to access pupils and explain their approved technical education qualifications or apprenticeships. It fulfils the requirements of section 42B of the Education Act 1997, as amended, and has regard to the Department for Education statutory guidance Careers guidance and access for education and training providers (updated 23 June 2026).

It sits alongside SJP's Careers Programme Information for 2026–2027. The wider programme begins in Year 7 and includes Belong Careers and Citizenship, Unifrog, careers events, employer encounters, workplace experiences and personalised guidance.

2. Pupil entitlement

All pupils in Years 8–13 are entitled to:

- Understand the range of technical education qualifications and apprenticeship opportunities as part of an impartial careers programme covering all education and training routes.
- Hear directly from a range of providers about their courses, qualifications, apprenticeships and progression routes, including through assemblies, workshops, discussions and taster activities.
- Understand how to apply for academic, vocational and technical routes at relevant transition points.

3. Minimum statutory provider encounters

SJP will arrange at least six opportunities across the three statutory phases. Each phase must involve two different providers. Encounters must take place for a reasonable period during the normal school day and provide meaningful two-way engagement; open evenings outside school hours do not count towards the six.

Phase	Minimum entitlement	Timing
Years 8–9	Two encounters; attendance mandatory for pupils	Any time in Year 8, or 1 September–28 February in Year 9
Years 10–11	Two encounters; attendance mandatory for pupils	Any time in Year 10, or 1 September–28 February in Year 11
Years 12–13	Two encounters arranged by the school; attendance optional for pupils	Any time in Year 12, or 1 September–28 February in Year 13

Each encounter will provide, as a minimum, information on the provider and its approved technical education qualifications or apprenticeships; careers and progression routes; what learning or training with that provider is like; and opportunities for pupils to ask questions. Live online meetings may qualify where they are meaningful and interactive.

SJP will record which provider met which year group, the date, the pupils offered access, the content delivered and evidence of engagement. Planned activities are not described as completed until delivery is verified.

4. How SJP plans and offers access

Provider encounters are built into the careers programme alongside Belong Careers and Citizenship, provider-led assemblies, workshops, the careers fair, options and transition activities, and targeted careers events. Statutory encounters will be scheduled within the school day and accessible to the relevant whole year group; targeted events supplement rather than replace universal entitlements.

The entitlement by phase and examples from SJP's draft programme are set out below. These are illustrative delivery routes, not a declaration that individual encounters have already been completed.

Year group	SJP offer and examples
Year 7 (additional)	Early exploration of pathways and sectors through Belong and Unifrog; introduction to colleges, technical education and apprenticeships. This does not count towards the six statutory encounters.
Years 8–9	Two provider-led encounters covering technical and apprenticeship routes; linked where appropriate to careers fair, GCSE options and progression learning.
Years 10–11	Two provider-led encounters covering post-16 routes, including FE, T Levels, technical qualifications, apprenticeships and entry requirements; supported by interviews, work experience and transition activities.
Years 12–13	Two opportunities to hear directly from technical education or apprenticeship providers, including higher and degree apprenticeships, higher technical study and progression beyond sixth form; individual attendance is optional.

5. Requests from education and training provider

Name and Role	Miss. Michelle Garner (AHT)
Contact Email	michellegarner@stjohnplessington.com
Contact Telephone	0151 645 5049, extension 507

Requests should explain the provider's organisation, the technical education qualifications or apprenticeships to be presented, the proposed year group, the intended outcomes, the format and duration, preferred dates, accessibility requirements, and the number and roles of visiting staff. SJP will discuss arrangements and respond through the Careers Lead or delegated colleague.

6. Grounds for granting or refusing access

SJP welcomes requests from a broad range of education and training providers. Access will be considered fairly, with particular attention to impartiality, the relevance of the offer, gaps in current pupil knowledge, transition needs, inclusion and the statutory entitlement.

Requests may be approved where they complement planned careers learning and can be delivered safely and meaningfully within the timetable. A request may be declined or rearranged if it does not relate to relevant education or training options, would duplicate provision without added value, cannot be accommodated safely or reasonably, does not meet safeguarding requirements, or would significantly disrupt curriculum or examination arrangements. The school will not refuse access solely to favour its own sixth form or another particular route.

Where an individual proposed date or format is unsuitable, SJP will seek an alternative where practical. All visitors must comply with the College safeguarding, visitor, health and safety, and conduct arrangements. Provider representatives remain subject to appropriate supervision and agreed procedures.

7. Premises, facilities and resources

Subject to availability and the nature of the activity, SJP may provide the main hall, drama studio, classrooms or private meeting rooms, together with agreed AV and specialist presentation equipment. Facilities will be confirmed in advance by the Careers Lead or team. Live online engagement may be offered where suitable.

Providers may leave prospectuses and relevant course literature in the Careers Resource Centre, managed by the school librarian, or in the sixth form careers information area. The Resource Centre is accessible to pupils during break and lunchtime.

8. Inclusion, impartiality and personalised provision

Provider encounters will be designed for the pupils concerned, with reasonable adjustments and appropriate support for SEND, EAL and other access needs. SJP's universal entitlement will not be restricted to selected groups. Complementary targeted support may include opportunities for pupils with EHCPs, children looked after, pupils uncertain about their next steps and those requiring additional placement or transition support.

Examples in the source draft include LFC Foundation United Nations Day, Behind the Scenes: Careers in Culture, SENDLO Hive, priority careers interviews, support securing Year 10 work experience, specialist industry encounters, and careers interventions for pupils at risk of disengagement. These additional experiences do not automatically satisfy the six-provider requirement.

9. Monitoring, publication and complaints

The Careers Lead will review provision and the provider access statement at least annually, with agreement by the governing body. Monitoring will consider encounter records, participation, pupil and provider feedback, Compass+ and Gatsby Benchmark evidence, and whether pupils can access the full range of routes. SJP will publish the current statement on its website alongside Careers Programme Information.

Concerns about provider access may be raised through SJP's complaints procedure or with the Careers & Enterprise Company at provideraccess@careersandenterprise.co.uk.

10. Approval

Role	Confirmation
Careers Link Governor	John Storror – signature/date to be confirmed
Headteacher	Peadar McLoughlin – signature/date to be confirmed
Next annual review	September 27'.

Appendix A | Previous provider engagement

The following providers are retained from SJP's October 2026 draft as examples of organisations invited in previous terms or years. Inclusion here does not itself evidence a completed qualifying statutory provider encounter.

Previous organisations and providers	Previous organisations and providers
BBC – Apprenticeships	ASK – Apprenticeship Support
Nestlé – Apprenticeships	Home Office / Civil Service – Apprenticeships
Airbus – Apprenticeships	Armed Forces – Apprenticeships
Air Products	Aldi
NHS	Wirral Metropolitan FE College
LLS Sports Academy	Steven Gerrard Academy
Reaseheath Agricultural College	LIPA
Birkenhead Sixth Form	Liverpool Life Science
Scottish Power	Chester Zoo
Jaguar Land Rover (JLR)	His Majesty's Courts and Tribunals Service (HMCTS)

SJP also participated in the Equalex Pilot Project with the DfE and Careers & Enterprise Company in Liverpool City Region, supporting development towards 50 hours (two weeks' worth) of meaningful workplace experience across Years 7–11. This activity is part of the wider careers programme rather than a substitute for PAL encounters.

Appendix B | Destination data retained from source

These tables reproduce the 2025–2026 destination figures in the source draft. The Year 11 figures describe September 2026 destinations for the previous Year 11 cohort, and the Year 13 figures describe destinations after sixth form. Figures and labels should be checked against the school's latest verified destinations record before website publication.

Year 11 destinations – 2025–2026

Destination	Number of pupils
St John Plessington	74
Wirral Metropolitan College	68
Birkenhead Sixth Form	45
City of Liverpool College	12
Apprenticeships	10
Steven Gerrard Academy	5
Supported by CareerConn./ possible Neet	5
Apprenticeships (Armed Forces)	4
Reaseheath Agricultural College	4
Cheshire College West	4
Caldy Grange Sixth Form	4
Rocket Training Birkenhead	4
Rare Dance College (Liverpool)	3
Tranmere Rovers College	3
LIPA	2
Liverpool Community College	2
Eotis	2
Hugh Baird College	1
Wirral Home Education Service	1
Everton Football College	1
LMA	1
Birkenhead Engineering College	1
Sefton Sixth Form College	1
Birkenhead High School Academy	1
Wirral Grammar for Girls	1

Preston College	1
Bebington Co-operative	1
TTE	1
MPCT (military training)	1
West Kirby Grammar	1
Upton Hall College	1
TOTAL	265

Year 13 destinations – 2025–2026

Destination	Number of pupils
Liverpool John Moores University	20
University of Liverpool	12
Apprenticeship	12
Employment	10
Edge Hill University	6
SAE Institute Liverpool	2
University of Salford	2
Durham University	2
Gap Year	2
Moved abroad (U.S.A.)	1
City of Liverpool College	1
Liverpool Media Academy	1
University of Nottingham	1
University of Manchester	1
University of Leeds	1
Keele University	1
University of Chester	1
Brighton University	1
Loughborough University	1
University of Reading	1
University of South Wales	1
Newcastle University	1
University of Bangor	1
Wrexham University	1
Liverpool Hope University	1
TOTAL	84