



The Island Learning Centre

Provider Access Policy

February 2025

The Island Learning Centre: Provider Access Policy Statement

(To include The Department of Education, July 2021: “Baker Clause” and the Provider Access Legislation, January 223)

Ownership: The Island Learning Centre

Date Updated: February 2025

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 community.

As the number of apprenticeships rises every year, it becomes increasingly important that all young people have an understanding of all the options available to them post-16, including wider technical education options.

Commitment

The Island Learning Centre 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 Island Learning Centre is fully aware of the responsibility to set students on the path that will secure the best outcome to progress in education and work, and give employers the highly skilled people they need. That means acting impartially, in line with statutory duty, and not showing bias towards any route, be that academic or technical.

The Island Learning Centre 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 Island Learning Centre’s policy for access to other education and training providers has the following aims:

- To develop our students’ knowledge and awareness 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 the number of students who drop out of their chosen course and to avoid the risk of students becoming NEET (Young people not in education, employment or training).

Student Entitlement

The Island learning Centre fully supports the statutory requirement for students to have direct access to other providers of further education training, technical training and apprenticeships. The Island Learning Centre 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 at the annual careers fair, informal careers lunches and other special events throughout the year.

Development

This policy has been developed and is reviewed annually by the Careers lead, Stephanie Thompson, based on current good practice guidelines from the Department of Education.

Links with other policies

This policy supports and is underpinned by key school policies, including those for RSHE and Careers, Safeguarding, 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. The Island Learning Centre 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 Stephanie Thompson, Careers Lead. Stephanie may be contacted by telephone or email.

Telephone: 01983 300333

Email: stephanie.thompson@islandlearning.co.uk

Grounds for granting requests for access

Access will be given for providers to attend during timetabled careers or RSHE lessons and during careers or other related events that The Island Learning Centre is arranging. Students may also travel to visit another provider as part of a trip to be organised by The Island Learning Centre.

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

The Island Learning Centre will provide an appropriate room with a computer/laptop, projector and screen. The Careers Lead will organise this, working with the provider to ensure the facilities are appropriate. Appropriate safeguarding checks will be carried out. Providers will be met and supervised by the Careers Lead or another member of staff.

Live/Virtual Encounters

The Island Learning Centre will consider live online encounters with providers where requested, and these may be broadcast into classrooms. Technology checks will be required in advance to ensure system compatibility.

Parents and Carers

Parental involvement is encouraged, and parents may be invited to attend events to meet the providers.

Management

The Careers Leader coordinates all provider requests and is responsible to the Senior Leadership Team.

Complaints Procedure

Any complaints about this policy should be raised to the Headteacher in the first instance, ilcadminoffice@iow.gov.uk.

The Headteacher will ensure that the complaint follows the complaints procedure.

Monitoring, Review and Evaluation

The policy is monitored and reviewed annually via the senior leadership team.

Next review: February 2026

Appendix

Providers who have been invited to The Island Learning Centre include:

Isle of Wight College

HTP Apprenticeship College

The Island VI Form

UKSA

NHS Careers

Army Careers