

Provider Access Legislation

PAL specifies that schools must provide at least **six** encounters with approved providers of apprenticeships and technical education spread across year 8-13 for all their students.

- **Two** encounters for pupils during the ‘first key phase’ (year 8 or 9) that are mandatory for all pupils to attend **(to take place any time during year 8 or between 1 September and 28 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 **(to take place any time during year 10 or between 1 September and 28 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. **(to take place any time during year 12 or between 1 September and 28 February during year 13)**.

This new legislation will become a key mechanism to further help learners understand and take-up, not just **apprenticeships**, but wider **technical education options** such as **T-Levels and Higher Technical Qualifications**.

Whilst the provider access legislation only applies to schools and schools that have sixth forms, DfE strongly encourages colleges to follow the guidance as good practice.

The legislation includes flexibility for schools to arrange meetings with the same provider across more than one ‘key phase’ However, within the same key phase, schools must always provide encounters with two different providers to meet the legal requirement.

What information does a Training Provider need to share?



Careers Leaders should embed encounters with providers within a progressive careers programme that ensures meaningful delivery and evaluation of activities.

Priority Task



Every school **must** prepare and publish a new policy statement setting out the circumstances in which education and training providers will be given access to pupils.
This should be published on the website. **PAL Policy Template:** [Link](#)

Statutory Guidance and Resources

Provider Access Legislation | The Careers and Enterprise Company: [Link](#)

Careers guidance and access for education and training providers - GOV.UK: [Link](#)

Provider Access Legislation Q & A: [Link](#)

CEC Technical Education Pathway Resource: [Link](#)

Making it meaningful: Benchmark 7: [Link](#)

Are you supporting all pathways video: [Link](#)

Benchmark 7 guide and contact list: [Link](#)

Vocational technical qualifications (VTQs)

VTQs focus on a specific job or a broad employment area, such as childcare, engineering or IT. They're usually taken at a school, college or training provider.

There are a few different types and levels of VTQs, including: [BTECs](#), [Cambridge Nationals](#), [Cambridge Technicals](#) & [T Levels](#).

Find a provider of VTQs: **FE Colleges:** [Link](#) **University Technical Colleges:** [Link](#) **Independent Training Provider register:** [Link](#) **Local Training Provider list:** [Link](#)

T Levels

T Levels are two-year technical programmes, designed with employers, to give young people the skills that industries need. Equivalent in size to 3 A levels, a T Level focuses on vocational skills: [Link](#)

Find a provider of T Level qualifications: [Link](#)

Apprenticeships

An apprenticeship is a paid opportunity to work and study at the same time. Apprenticeships are developed alongside Independent Training Providers. Search vacancies by postcode and within the job description find contacts at linked local and national Training Providers. **Gov.uk:** [Link](#) **LCR BeMore:** [Link](#)

You can also find providers using the following resources: **Independent Training Provider register:** [Link](#) **Local Training Provider list:** [Link](#)

Apprenticeships are also provided by FE Colleges - **Refer to the BM7 guide for contact information:** [Link](#)

Supported Internships

Supported internships are a structured study programme based primarily at an employer. They enable young people aged 16-24 with a statement of SEN, or an EHCP to achieve paid employment, through learning in the workplace. [Link](#) You can also find information on the local offer website.

Higher Technical Qualifications (HTQs)

HTQs are Level 4 and 5 qualifications (such as HNDs/foundation degrees/Diploma HE). More information here: [Link](#)

This list gives details of the providers currently able to offer HTQs. It also includes details of those we expect to offer HTQs from September 2023: [Link](#)



Contact the providers of VTQs, T Levels, HTQs, Supported Internships and Apprenticeships to enquire about school engagement. (Refer to the BM7 guide for contact information: [Link](#))

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The Careers & Enterprise Company (CEC)

There is comprehensive information in relation to PAL on the CEC website including guides, videos and links to resources. [Link](#)

The LCR Careers Hub

The LCR Hub will continue to support you with information, guidance and opportunities in relation to PAL. The Benchmark 7 guide and Training Provider directory will be updated and shared on a regular basis. Also look out for PAL related opportunities in the newsletter.

Your Enterprise Coordinator

Your Enterprise Coordinator is available to discuss PAL compliance with the Careers Leaders, SLT & Governors. Your Enterprise Coordinator can help you identify how to find partners to deliver encounters and share best practice on *making it meaningful*.

Your School Careers Advisor

The school careers advisor whether internal or commissioned will have a comprehensive knowledge about local provision as well as contacts so schedule time to discuss PAL with them.

The ASK Programme

The Apprenticeship Support & Knowledge for schools and colleges programme is funded by the DfE and aims to support schools and colleges to increase awareness of apprenticeships, T Levels and HTQs amongst students, parents, carers & teachers: [Link](#) Schools can request support by completing an [online form](#) or emailing: ask.programme@education.gov.uk

Local authority 14-19 teams

Each local authority area has a team responsible for tracking and supporting young people after they leave education at 16 to ensure they have a suitable offer of learning. The teams have comprehensive contacts and links to local training providers.

- **Liverpool** - richard.gummery@liverpool.gov.uk
- **Sefton** - Richard.Seddon@sefton.gov.uk
- **Halton** - Haf.Bell@halton.gov.uk
- **St Helens** - jacquelineburns@sthelens.gov.uk
- **Wirral** - Garethjones@wirral.gov.uk
- **Knowsley** - tracking@knowsley.gov.uk

