

Statement of Intent about the Baker Clause in SUAT Secondary Academies

What is the Baker Clause?

The Baker Clause was introduced as an amendment to the Technical and Further Education Act 2017. It stipulates that schools must allow colleges and training providers access to every student in years 8- 13 to discuss the non-academic routes that are available to them. It is expected that by doing so this will help address the UK's productivity challenges and address skills shortages experienced across several sectors of the economy. This regulation has been enforced since January 2nd 2018.

SUAT supports The White Paper of January 2021 because it is designed to support people to get the skills our economy needs throughout their lives, wherever they live in the country. We believe that focusing post-16 skills on this core mission will increase productivity, support growth industries, and give individuals opportunities to progress in their careers.

Our High School/s will support the delivery of this focus on jobs and growth by:

- Strengthening their relationship with employers who are at the heart of the system so that our young people can access education and training that leads to jobs that can improve productivity and fill skills gaps.
- Encouraging relevant youngsters to consider higher-level technical qualifications that provide a valuable alternative to a university degree.
- Making sure that our young people have the knowledge necessary to access training and learning flexibly throughout their lives and are well-informed about what is on offer through great careers support.

In this way we are contributing to the reforms that will deliver the Prime Minister's Lifetime Skills Guarantee, as set out in his speech in September 2020.

SUAT Secondary Sector Academies

SUAT believes that all of its secondary sector academies must ensure that there is an opportunity for a range of education and training providers to access all pupils in year 8 to year 13 for the purpose of informing them about approved technical education qualifications or apprenticeships. This generic statement of intent is a policy statement setting out SUAT's arrangements for provider access and our system for ensuring that it is followed.

Our academies are committed to informing their students of the full range of learning and training pathways on offer to them. They are happy to consider requests from training, apprenticeship and vocational education providers to speak to students and also proactively seek to build relationships with these partners as they plan their careers activity throughout the school year.

In order to ensure that providers have multiple opportunities to speak to students and their parents across years 7- 13, to offer information on vocational, technical and apprenticeship qualifications and pathways SUAT ensures that staff involved in personnel guidance and pastoral support are up to date on their knowledge of these post 16 and post 18 pathways, through a programme of Continuing Professional Development.

Opportunities for providers to speak with students may include assemblies, employer and provider engagement events or opportunities to speak with students and parents on a one-to-one basis supporting GCSE, post 16 or post 18 option choices. The Local Academy Councils in our Academies monitor for quality and impact, advised by their academy's Senior Leadership Team. In our academies the senior Leadership Team monitor access to, and opportunities to engage with, technical, vocational and training providers. The minutes of their meetings are shared with the Trust Board who monitor compliance with the Baker Clause.

In the first instance, requests by providers should be sent to the relevant Academy's Principal with a minimum of 6 weeks' lead time. All requests will be considered on the basis of; staffing availability to support the activity, clashes with other planned activity, trips or visits to the Academy, interruption to preparation for examinations or rooming and space availability to host the activity.