

The background of the central section is a blurred photograph of a school building with a large gold cross superimposed in the center. The building has a red brick section on the left and a green section on the right. The text is centered over this image.

**THOMAS BECKET CATHOLIC SCHOOL  
PROVIDER ACCESS POLICY (PAL)  
STATEMENT  
2024 - 2025**

**Approved by:** Local Academy Committee

**Date:** September 2024

**Next review due by:** Local Academy Committee

**Date:** September 2025

## **Thomas | Becket Catholic School: Provider Access Policy Statement**

**(To include The Department of Education, July 2021: “Baker Clause” and the Provider Access Legislation, January 2023)**

### **Rationale**

High quality careers education and guidance in school or college 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**

Thomas Becket Catholic 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. Thomas Becket Catholic 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.

Thomas Becket Catholic School endeavours to ensure that all students are aware of all routes to higher skills and can 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**

Thomas Becket Catholic 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**

Thomas Becket Catholic 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 put on at least six encounters with providers of approved technical education qualifications or apprenticeships. This will be done in assemblies in National Apprenticeship Week and National Careers Week, in addition to providers attending careers events at school. There will be opportunity to attend careers fair and attend workshops on the school site or at various locations as provided by different organisations.

## **Development**

This policy has been developed and is reviewed annually by the Careers Leader and Line Manager by (Tutu Alaka and Paul McCahill 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. Thomas Becket Catholic 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 **Mrs Alaka**, Careers Leader. **Mrs Alaka** may be contacted by telephone or email, 01604 493211 / [aalaka@tbcs.nor.olicatschools.org](mailto:aalaka@tbcs.nor.olicatschools.org).

## **Grounds for granting requests for access.**

Access will be given for providers to attend during school assemblies, timetabled Careers or Life lessons, and Careers or Raising Aspirations events that The Thomas Becket Catholic School is arranging. Students may also travel to visit another provider as part of the trip to be organised in partnership with Thomas Becket Catholic School.

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

Thomas Becket Catholic School will provide an appropriate room or assembly hall to be agreed. All rooms have computers, projectors and screens provided. Computer rooms can also be arranged. 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 the Careers Team who will facilitate.

## **Live/Virtual encounters**

Thomas Becket Catholic 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 senior management line manager.

### **Complaints Procedure**

Any complaints about this policy should be raised to *Mrs A Alaka*, email: [aalaka@tbcn.nor.olicatschools.org](mailto:aalaka@tbcn.nor.olicatschools.org). *Mrs A Alaka* will raise the complaint to Mr McCahill, the Headteacher.

### **Monitoring review and evaluation**

The Policy is monitored and evaluated annually by the Careers Lead and senior leadership team.

## **Appendix**

### **Providers who have been invited into *Thomas Becket Catholic School* to date include:**

University of Northampton.

University of Coventry.

Northampton college.

Moulton college.

NHS

ASK Apprenticeship.

RAF

GXO

LemonPop Creative.

### **Destinations of previous pupils from Thomas Becket Catholic School include:**

Northampton College

Moulton College

Various apprenticeships.