

The background of the page features a stylized illustration. On the left, a large windmill with four sails is depicted. The sails are white with brown triangular patterns. The body of the windmill is yellow with brown horizontal stripes. To the right of the windmill, a school building with a grey roof and white walls is visible. The sky is light blue with a few white clouds. The foreground shows green grass.

# **The Edith Borthwick School**

## **PROVIDER ACCESS POLICY**

|  |                         |
|--|-------------------------|
| <b>Lead Governor</b>                   | <b>Stephanie Taylor</b> |
| <b>Date approved by Governing Body</b> | <b>November 2025</b>    |
| <b>Next review date</b>                | <b>Autumn 2026</b>      |

## **1. Introduction**

At the Edith Borthwick School we are dedicated to ensuring all pupils, including those with profound and multiple learning disabilities (PMLD) and severe learning disabilities (SLD), have access to a range of education and training providers.

This policy outlines our arrangements for provider access, specifically addressing the diverse and individual needs of our pupils. This complies with the school's legal obligations under Section 42B of the Education Act 1997.

## **2. Student entitlement**

All pupils, regardless of ability, are entitled to the following.

### **2.1 Procedure for requests**

- Explore post-education opportunities, with content tailored to their abilities and interests.
- Interact with technical education and apprenticeship providers if appropriate, ensuring accessibility and relevance.
- Experience learning opportunities that incorporate individualised communication methods, sensory engagement, and assistive technologies as appropriate.

### **2.2 Opportunities for access**

- Providers can engage with pupils through:
  - Sensory workshops tailored for PMLD/SLD needs.
  - One-on-one or small-group sessions using assistive communication tools (e.g. AAC devices, books, ALD boards).
  - Practical demonstrations with tactile and visual aids to enhance understanding.
- The school will work collaboratively with providers to adapt materials and approaches to ensure meaningful participation for every pupil.

### **2.3 Safeguarding requirements**

- All providers must adhere to the school's safeguarding policies. In addition, they should demonstrate understanding of working with PMLD and SLD pupils, ensuring their safety, dignity, and comfort throughout sessions.

### **2.4 Facilities and support**

- The school will provide tailored spaces and resources, including sensory-friendly environments, assistive technologies, and support from trained staff to facilitate provider activities.

**3. Management of provider access requests**

At the Edith Borthwick School the Provider Access Legislation is linked to our school curriculum.

Each encounter is planned carefully into the overview ensuring that students have access to meaningful information about education provision.

Where learners' options are limited due to the nature of their specific learning needs and/or physical ability, encounters for young people with PMLD/SLD will typically consist of adult social care and / or Supported Learning in local colleges.

**4. Procedure for requests:**

Providers should contact Tracy Hanlon, Careers Leader

Email: [tracyh@edithborthwick.essex.sch.uk](mailto:tracyh@edithborthwick.essex.sch.uk) Phone: 01376 529300

**5. Monitoring and feedback**

Regular evaluations of provider engagements will be conducted to assess their suitability and impact for all student inclusive of PMLD/SLD pupils. Feedback from staff and parents will be used to refine and improve future sessions

**6. Complaints**

Any concerns or complaints related to provider access can be addressed to the Headteacher at: [admin@edithborthwick.essex.sch.uk](mailto:admin@edithborthwick.essex.sch.uk) and will be handled in line with the school's Complaints Policy.

**7. Policy review**

This policy is reviewed annually to ensure it continues to meet the needs of all pupils.