

The background of the page features a stylized illustration. On the left, a large windmill with a yellow body and white sails is depicted. To its right, a school building with a grey roof and white walls is visible. The scene is set against a light blue sky with soft white clouds and a green grassy foreground.

The Edith Borthwick School

PROVIDER ACCESS LEGISLATION POLICY

Lead Governor	Stephanie Taylor
Date approved by Governing Body	1st December 2025
Next review date	Autumn term 2026

1. Aim

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.

In line with the Provider Access Legislation, we aim to deliver meaningful encounters with technical education and apprenticeship providers and other progression routes (Local Offer) that are carefully tailored to meet the diverse needs of our students in Years 8-13.

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.

Encounters

- A minimum of six meaningful encounters with technical education, apprenticeship providers or other appropriate providers between Years 8 and 13.
- Two encounters in each key phase:
 - **Years 8–9:** To introduce career-related possibilities in accessible formats.
 - **Years 10–11:** To support informed decision-making and transition planning.
 - **Years 12–13:** To explore further education, employment pathways, and opportunities suited to everyone's strengths and aspirations.
- 1 encounter is defined as 1 meeting/session between pupils and 1 provider.
- Meaningful live online engagement is also an option at our school.

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 Info you would require from them....

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 Phone: 01376 529300

Granting and refusing access

While the school reserves the right to grant or deny access, Edith Borthwick School will always seek to provide the broadest offer possible to students. If denied access the provider will receive a response, in writing, confirming the decision around why access is deemed unsuitable at this time.

When considering provider applications for access the following will be considered:

- The reputability of the provider
- The needs and aspirations of the pupils attending the event
- The safeguarding duty of the school

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 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.

8. Pupil destinations

Last year, our pupils moved to a range of providers in the local area after school:

Year 14	17 learners left school in Year 14 for alternative provision.
Social Care Pathway	4 learners accessed a variety of social care provisions.
Education Pathway	12 learners accessed Education provisions.
Destination unknown	1 learners' provision was unknown.
Other learners	10 learners in other key stages left school to access different provisions including MLD and SLD schools.