



Apprenticeships and technical education support for schools and colleges

Schools and colleges seeking support to raise awareness of apprenticeships and technical education can access a range of online and in-person initiatives:

Online:

- [Skills for Careers Apprenticeships support page](#).
- The Careers and Enterprise Company's (CEC) [resource directory](#) hosts a range of high-quality resources to support schools and colleges in building understanding of technical education pathways.
- [Amazing Apprenticeships](#) offer a wide range of free resources and support for schools and colleges, covering apprenticeships and technical education.
- Specific sector initiatives such as [Discover Creative Careers](#) – a wide range of resources on careers in the creative sector including technical pathways into the sector.

In-person:

- The Apprenticeship Ambassador Network (AAN) – educators can [find their local network here](#) as well as T Level and [STEM Ambassadors here](#).
- CEC's national network of [Careers Hubs](#), to help coordinate employers and local programmes to engage directly with schools and colleges to support their careers education including to raise awareness of apprenticeship pathways into their sectors.
- Networks of providers who provide outreach including colleges, training providers and sector bodies.

About the Apprenticeship Ambassador Network

The Apprenticeship Ambassador Network (AAN) is made up of 2,000 members (employers and current/former apprentices) who use their passion for apprenticeships and skills to inspire and influence employers and young people to engage with apprenticeships.

Employer and Apprentice Ambassadors go into schools and colleges to share their compelling stories and experiences of what apprenticeships can do for young people.

One of the Network's key objectives is to connect an Ambassador to every school and college in England by March 2026. The Network is currently at 70 percent of that target.

Schools and colleges can find out more about the [Apprenticeship Ambassador Network here](#), or they can make contact through their local [Careers Hub](#).

About the Careers and Enterprise Company

Schools and colleges seeking support in raising awareness of technical and vocational pathways can access resources and guidance from [The Careers & Enterprise Company](#)

(CEC), the national body for careers education. Through the CEC's network of 44 Careers Hubs, schools and colleges are supported to identify and connect to external sources of guidance and support, as part of the CEC's overall role to help coordinate careers support locally.

The CEC raises awareness and understanding of skills pathways through key aspects of their work including through Careers Leader Training and engagement with employers to help improve outreach into schools and colleges.

About provider access legislation

Provider access legislation (PAL) was introduced in 2018. It requires all maintained schools and academies to publish a policy statement setting out opportunities for providers of technical education and apprenticeships to access year 8-13 pupils, and to make sure the statement is followed.

The strengthened provider access legislation, introduced in 2023, specifies schools must provide at least six encounters for all their students, during school years 8-13.

- 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.

To promote the quality and consistency of provider encounters, the legislation includes a set of minimum information that the school must ask the provider to give pupils during each encounter.

How can schools achieve PAL compliance?

The Careers and Enterprise Company provides resources on Provider Access Legislation to support schools and providers in delivering meaningful career encounters.

- [Provider Access Legislation](#) - Key Information: A summary of the January 2023 updates.
- [Making Encounters with Providers Meaningful](#): Guidance for Careers Leaders to integrate provider encounters into career programs.
- [Example Provider Access Policy Statement](#): A downloadable template for schools to meet statutory requirements.
- [My Learning My Future](#): Resources for subject teachers (KS3, KS4 & Post 16) to connect curriculum learning with career opportunities.
- [My Skills My Future](#): Resources supporting young people with SEND in developing employability skills and planning their next steps.
- Schools and colleges can ask for guidance on PAL from their [local Careers Hub](#).