

# WHAT IS THE BAKER CLAUSE?

Key requirements that schools need to know

The Baker Clause came into force for schools and colleges in England on the 2nd January 2018 and was strengthened in the Skills and Post-16 Education Act 2022 with the introduction of [Provider Access Legislation](#).

This short guide sets out the main points that your school needs to know.

## What is the Baker Clause?

Introduced as an amendment to the Technical and Further Education Act 2017, the Baker Clause stipulates that schools must allow colleges and training providers access to every pupil in Years 8 to 13 to inform them about approved technical education qualifications and apprenticeships.

Careers guidance and access for education and training providers  
The Department for Education (DfE) has updated the [Statutory guidance](#) for schools and sets out expectations for compliance, which include:

- Schools must act impartially and not show any bias towards any route, be that academic or technical.

- Schools should promote the full range of technical options.
- Schools must open their doors to other education and training providers, providing a range of opportunities for providers to talk to all year 8 - 13 pupils about their offer.
- Pupils should be aware of the benefits of apprenticeships, T Levels and other approved technical education qualifications.
- Schools should make every effort to improve their performance against the [8 Gatsby Benchmarks](#).
- Governing bodies and senior leaders should review their arrangements for provider access and prepare and publish a policy statement on the school website.

## TOP TIPS!

The ASK Programme (funded by the DfE) entitles education establishments to access free support covering apprenticeship and other technical education options. Scan the QR code or visit: [amazingapprenticeships.com/request-support](https://www.amazingapprenticeships.com/request-support)



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## What will Ofsted be looking for?

Ofsted has updated its [school inspection handbook](#) to strengthen the focus on careers guidance, including clarification that inspectors will always report where a school falls short of the requirements of the provider access legislation (Baker Clause) as well as considering how it affects a school's inspection grade.

## What are the governing body expectations?

Every school should have a member of their governing body who takes a strategic interest in careers education and guidance. Furthermore, they should ensure that their school is meeting the statutory duty that all students are aware of the full range of academic and technical routes available to them at each transition point.

[The governance handbook](#) provides information on governors' other legal duties, such as having a named Careers Leader, a 'Provider Access Policy' and that this policy is published on the school website.

## Quick checklist for schools

Use this checklist to ensure that you are aware of the main requirements for your school:

- ✓ Identify a named Careers Leader.
- ✓ Create a Provider Access Policy Statement setting out the opportunities for providers to visit the school and the process to request access.
- ✓ Publish the statement on the school website.
- ✓ Review (annually) the effectiveness of the arrangements for your school and update your approach as appropriate.

The Careers & Enterprise Company has published a helpful [example policy](#).

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To discover more about apprenticeships, T Levels and other options, scan the QR code with your phone or visit: [amazingapprenticeships.com](https://www.amazingapprenticeships.com)

