



# **CAREERS GUIDANCE POLICY**

January 2026

## Version History

Version Information Version No.	Updated By	Updated On	Description of Changes
1.0	Head Teacher	January 2026	New policy

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## 1 Aims

- 1.1 This document describes The Serendipity Centre Ltd's (TSCL) policy on careers advice and guidance for students who attend The Serendipity School.
- 1.2 This policy aims to set out our school's provision of impartial and informed careers guidance for our pupils. This includes the ways in which pupils, parents and carers, teachers and employers can access information about our careers programme.
- 1.3 High-quality careers guidance is important for our pupils' futures, and our provision aims to:
  - Help pupils prepare for the workplace, by building self-development and career management skills
  - Provide experience and a clear understanding of the working world
  - Develop pupils' awareness of the variety of education, training and careers opportunities available to them
  - Help pupils to understand routes to careers that they're interested in, and to make informed choices about their next step in education or training
  - Take into account the individual needs of all pupils to tailor the programme accordingly and provide the right level of support
  - Promote a culture of high aspirations and equality of opportunity

## 2 Statutory requirements

2.1 This policy is based on the statutory [Careers guidance and access for education and training providers](#) from the Department for Education (DfE).

This guidance refers to:

[The Education Act 1997](#)

[The Education and Skills Act 2008](#)

[The School Information \(England\) Regulations 2008](#)

2.2 This policy is also in line with the [Skills and Post-16 Education Act 2022](#) (the 'provider access legislation'). It explains that our school must provide a minimum of **6 encounters** with technical education and apprenticeship providers to all pupils in years 8 to 13 about their education or training offer.

2.3 This policy is also in line with the [Education \(Careers Guidance in Schools\) Act 2022](#), which amends the existing duty in The Education Act 1997, so that:

- Our school must now secure independent careers guidance for pupils from year 7 (instead of from year 8, previously)

2.4 The above guidance requires that we publish information about the careers programme on our website, and that it is communicated in a way that enables learners, parents and carers, staff, and employers to access and understand it. This includes:

- The name and contact details of the careers leader
- A summary of the careers programme
- Details of how pupils, parents and carers, teachers, and employers can access information about the careers programme
- How our school measures and assesses the programme's impact on learners
- The date by which we will review information

2.5 We also act in line with our statutory duty under the provider access legislation (also known as the 'Baker Clause'), to be impartial and not show bias towards any route, be that academic or technical.

## 3. Roles and responsibilities

### 3.1 The Proprietor

The Proprietor will:

- Actively engage in setting the direction for a whole-school approach to careers guidance with the headteacher, to make sure it is aligned with the school's vision, priorities and development plans
  - Provide clear advice and guidance on which the school can base a strategic careers plan which meets legal and contractual requirements
  - Maintain strategic oversight of the school's legal and contractual requirements for careers guidance and hold senior leaders to account for delivering against those requirements
  - Appoint a member of the governing board who will take a strategic interest in careers education and encourage employer engagement
  - Make sure that independent careers guidance is provided to all pupils throughout their secondary education (11 to 18 year-olds) and that the information is presented impartially, includes a range of educational or training options and promotes the best interests of pupils
  - Make sure that a range of education and training providers can access pupils in years 8 to 13 to inform them of approved technical education qualifications and apprenticeships
  - Make sure that arrangements are in place for the school to meet the legal requirements of the provider access legislation, including that the school has published a provider access policy statement
  - Make sure that details of our school's careers programme and the name of the careers leader are published on the school's website

### **3.2 Head Teacher**

- The Head Teacher will:
  - Work with the governing board to set the direction for a whole-school approach to careers guidance, making sure it is aligned with the school's vision, priorities and development plans
  - Support the careers team to deliver the school's careers programme
  - Build careers into staff development for teachers and support staff, and make sure that the careers leader, careers adviser and senior leaders receive training and development to deliver high-quality careers provision
  - Make sure that personal guidance is provided to pupils by a qualified careers adviser
  - Network with employers, education and training providers, and other careers organisations

### **3.3 Senior leadership team (SLT)**

The SLT will:

- Support the careers programme
- Support the careers leader in developing their strategic careers plan
- Make sure the careers leader is allocated sufficient time and budget, and has the appropriate training, to perform their duties to a high standard

- Support the careers adviser to deliver personal guidance to pupils, making sure it's well-resourced
- Work closely with the careers leader and careers adviser in the overall development and evaluation of the careers programme
- Network with employers, education and training providers, and other careers organisations

## 3.5 Careers adviser

Our careers leader is **Tracy Bailey from Education Business Partnership.** They will:

- Support pupils to make effective career decisions
- Work with the careers leader and SENCO to identify the needs of pupils with SEND and provide personalised support
- Contribute to the overall development and evaluation of the careers programme

## 4. Our careers programme

- 4.1 Our school has an embedded careers programme that aims to inform and encourage pupils to consider their career options, and take steps to understand their choices and pathways. We provide statutory independent careers guidance to pupils from year 7 onwards.
- 4.2 Our programme has been developed to meet the expectations outlined in the **Gatsby Benchmarks:**
  1. A stable careers programme
  2. Learning from career and labour market information
  3. Addressing the needs of each young person
  4. Linking curriculum learning to careers
  5. Encounters with employers and employees
  6. Experience of workplaces
  7. Encounters with further and higher education
  8. Personal guidance
- 4.3 Our programme doesn't show bias towards any particular institution, education or career path, and promotes a full range of technical and academic options for pupils. We consider the best interests of the pupil to whom the career guidance is given.

It is structured in a way that builds upon previous years, and the overarching aim is divided between the Key Stages so that pupils are encouraged to think appropriately about their future. We provide aims, objectives and activities for each year group.

4.3 Our careers programme is delivered through a number of methods, including: 1:1 guidance meetings, regular guidance reviews, lesson plans and scheme of work linked to careers within PSHE, Discovery and ASDAN, STEM activities/activity days,

4.4 All subjects link curriculum learning with careers. Additionally, our PSHE curriculum includes information on careers and employability.

4.4.1 Every pupil will receive at least 1 personal guidance meeting with a careers adviser by age 16.

4.5 Every pupil will receive a further meeting by age 18.

4.6 Information about personal guidance support, and how to access it, will be communicated to pupils, parents and carers, and other stakeholders, including through the school website.

4.7 At least 2 encounters with providers of technical education or apprenticeships in year 10 or 11

4.8 Where appropriate for student's needs, 1 week's worth of work experience placement(s)

## **Pupils with special educational needs or disabilities (SEND)**

4.8.1 All pupils with SEND will be supported with a careers programme that follows the Gatsby Benchmarks. We expect that the majority of pupils with SEND will follow the same careers programme as their classmates, with adjustments and additional support as needed. Information, opportunities and support will be personalised and sequenced to meet the needs of each pupil with SEND and their families.

4.8.2 Our careers leader will work with teachers and, where appropriate, professionals from relevant organisations, to identify the needs of our pupils with SEND and put in place personalised support and transition plans. This may include meetings with pupils and their families to discuss education, training and employment opportunities, supported internships and transition plans into higher education.

4.8.3 Our careers leader may, as appropriate, invite adults with disabilities to visit and share their experience and advice.

4.12 No information will be given to pupils without SEND that is not also offered to our pupils with SEND.

## Access to pupil participation records

- 4.13 We collect, maintain and use accurate data for each pupil on their aspirations, intended and immediate education, and training or employment destinations, to inform personalised support. We also keep records for each pupil of their participation in the careers programme, the individual advice given to them and subsequent agreed decisions.
- 4.14 Pupils have access to these records to support them during transition points and in their career development.
- 4.15 These records will be kept in line with our data protection policy, and archive retention schedule.

## 5. Links to other policies

This policy links to the following policies:

- Safeguarding policy
- Curriculum policy
- Data protection policy

## 6 Monitoring and Review

- 6.1 In order to ensure that it reflects current best practice, this policy will be reviewed annually. The Head Teacher will assess the progress of the policy and will decide on any changes in conjunction with the appropriate staff.

# The Serendipity School

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