



MARICOURT
CATHOLIC
HIGH SCHOOL
& SIXTH FORM CENTRE

CAREERS EDUCATION & GUIDANCE POLICY

Mission Statement

Our Maricourt family, with Christ at the centre, is a community of welcome, compassion and respect in which we are encouraged to discover our true purpose and empowered to achieve the extraordinary so as to be the change we want to see in our world.

INSPIRE
WITH
MARICOURT

POLICY REVIEWED: June 2026
SCHEDULED REVIEW: June 2027

Statutory Requirements and Expectations

The school is committed to fulfilling its statutory duties in relation to Careers Education and Guidance.

Maricourt High School Careers policy ensures that all registered students at this school are provided with independent careers guidance from Year 7 to Year 13. The Careers programme is grounded in our Catholic ethos and Mercy values that shape the heart of our school community. We are committed to preparing students for purposeful, fulfilling lives by guiding them to discover their God given potential and encouraging them to pursue career pathways that serve the common good.

The independent careers guidance provided:

- is presented in an impartial manner, showing no bias or favouritism towards a particular institution, education or work option.
- includes information on the range of education or training options, including apprenticeships and technical education routes.
- is guidance that the person giving will always promote the best interests of the students to whom it is given.

Vision and Values

This policy is underpinned by our long-term vision and core values. We are committed to implementing a careers programme that is a progressive journey from Year 7-13. Through a comprehensive and inclusive CEIAG program. The aims of the Careers programme at Maricourt we promote:

- Service – encouraging students to explore careers that contribute meaningfully to society and consider how their gifts and talents can be used to serve others.
- Courage - supporting students to make bold and informed choices, overcoming barriers and remain resilient in the face of challenges.
- Justice – advocating for fairness and opportunity in all pathways, actively challenging discrimination and inequalities in the world of work.
- Compassion – fostering empathy in careers choices, nurturing as sense of social responsibility and care for those in need.
- Respect – valuing the unique vocation of every individual and treating all career paths with equal dignity.
- Hospitality – creating welcoming and inclusive environments where all students feel safe supported and encouraged to explore their future without fear or judgement.

- Promotion of equality – ensuring all students regardless of gender, race background or ability have equal access to opportunities, information and support.
- To develop positive attitudes in the students towards study and work.
- To develop employability and enterprise skills, such as teamwork, problem solving, initiative and communication.
- To help students to plan and take control of their future making informed choices at key points in their education.
- To provide students with the relevant careers inspiration and guidance that is suitable to their personal needs including age, ability, attitudes and aptitudes.
- To provide students with a comprehensive understanding of opportunities post 16 and post 18 including traineeships, apprenticeships, school leaver programmes, HE, FE, employment and training opportunities.
- To help students to reflect on themselves – their abilities, skills, aptitudes and attitudes – so that they can use this knowledge to consider their development.
- To provide students with impartial advice about options that is available to them.
- To provide equality of access to careers inspiration and guidance.

Management and Delivery

These aims are achieved through the Careers curriculum which is outlined below. All strategies are in line with the Gatsby Benchmarks. Careers Compass Plus is completed termly, and action points inform improvements. The Compass Plus assessment tool has supported Maricourt in recording evidence of how students and the school meet the Gatsby benchmarks.

The Careers Leader along with the independent Careers Advisor, Curriculum Leaders, External Providers, Sefton Elevate, Link Governor and employers strive for continuous improvement and build on each benchmark further. The school is also a key member of the Liverpool City Region Careers Hub and Archdiocese Careers Leader link team.

The school is strong and committed to all 8 Benchmarks:

- A stable careers programme
- Learning from career and labour market information
- Addressing the needs of each young person
- Linking curriculum learning to careers
- Encounters with employers and employees
- Experience of workplaces
- Encounters with further and higher education
- Personal Guidance

Learner Entitlement

Every student is entitled to high quality careers education and guidance as part of their overall education and entitled to evaluate careers provision and use the 'future skills questionnaire tool in Compass Plus'.

Year 7 Provision

Careers inspiration and support start in Year 7 through introductory lessons during PSHE careers time and careers introductory assemblies allowing the students to reflect on where they are now and on what they want to do in the future. Students are introduced to the online careers' information available to them in addition to our online and remote platforms to advertise careers opportunities. They also get the opportunity to use Xello, a career matching software package and they are introduced to the National Careers Service website focusing on job profiles and job sectors. Students are also encouraged to use online labour market information. Aintree Racecourse provides Maths at Work sessions. Year 7 also fully engage with "Meet the Professionals" events which take place throughout the year in school and remotely. Whole cohort university trips are offered to raise aspirations and link education to future career destinations.

Year 8 Provision

Students continue with this in Year 8 investigating possible career routes and matching skills and qualities to suitable occupations. Students are introduced to possible opportunities and pathways post 16. Stereotyping is addressed in each year group to ensure all students are aware and fully embrace the importance of equality and the protected characteristics in employment. Local labour market and various job salaries are also explored. The Careers Curriculum Leader delivers a whole assembly to the year 8 cohorts about the different post 16 routes available giving in depth discussion of the different courses available including apprenticeships. Students can also request an impartial careers interview with the school Independent Careers Advisor to be scheduled during parents evening. Aintree Racecourse provides an Enterprise workshop to develop employability and transferable skills. Year 8 also fully engage with "Meet the Professionals" workshops which take place throughout the year in school and online remotely. Year 8 are invited to the annual careers convention to engage with employers, local college providers, universities and apprenticeship providers. A student careers ambassador programme has launched in which students will be able to explore labour market information in careers sectors and engage peers in raising aspirations to make informed decisions in the future.

Year 9 Provision

Year 9 have timetabled Careers lessons in designated times in the PSHE & Citizenship timetable. Local universities and employers deliver workshops to inspire students and raise awareness of the importance of lifelong learning. The work is designed to help the students prepare for their options. Students study five topics which include Self Awareness, Stereotypes, Equality, Opportunity Awareness, Decision Making and Financial Awareness. This includes the delivery of topics including pay slips, financial literacy, personal finance, budgeting, and risk management. Students revisit Xello, the careers platform and compare

their careers aspirations to those they had in year 7. They use the National Careers Service to investigate entry requirements for jobs in preparation for their option choices. There is a well-planned options process planned, to help students make informed choices, including a parents' information evening which includes a local labour market update. Aintree Racecourse delivers employability sessions on the careers available at Aintree Racecourse. The Careers Leader provides information on post 16 opportunities, including academic, vocational and apprenticeship routes. This can involve local colleges, apprenticeship providers and employers. Year 9 students are invited to attend the school's annual Careers Convention; they also fully engage with "Meet the Professionals" workshops which take place throughout the year. Year 9 students will all attend a one-to-one options meeting with a member of staff to discuss their option choices and ask any questions or further advice.

Year 10 Provision

At the end of Year 10, all students take part in a one-week work experience programme which involves over 150 employers each year. Students are entitled to arrange self-placements or use the Elevate EBP selection form route to obtain a placement. Both routes are coordinated and job descriptions created by Elevate EBP. The aim is to give students firsthand experience of the world of work. Some placements are found by the school or Sefton Elevate, because of links with industrial firms; the vast majority are found by parents and the students themselves. Students are fully prepared for their placement through planned careers lessons during PSHE, which includes an investigation into health and safety in the workplace. Students receive careers assemblies throughout the year including finding a suitable placement, a work experience brief and de-brief on their return. Students also keep a daily record of the skills they have learned in the workplace through use and recording of notes in a work experience journal. All students have access to a Careers Convention which gives advice and guidance on post 16 & post 18 opportunities. Year 10 students have an opportunity to attend local colleges for taster days. Aintree Racecourse deliver an Enterprise Day providing employer engagement and developing employability and transferable skills. There are regular alumni visits to inspire and motivate students from a variety of pathways. Year 10 students also have access to several online opportunities with employers such as virtual tours, webinars and offers of virtual work experience placements.

Year 11 Provision

Year 11 have a planned Careers, Advice and Guidance Programme that is completed throughout the year. It involves a variety of impartial experiences and workshops with employers and providers giving inspiration and guidance from a range of industry sectors. Year 11 also take part in a Careers Convention. This gives students the opportunity to seek impartial guidance and advice from over 50 professionals and organisations, to help with their post 16 options and decisions. Year 11 also have the opportunity to look at interview techniques and CV creation which prepares them for their mock interviews with employers in the autumn term. Year 11 will have an assembly supported by apprenticeship providers, giving advice and guidance on a range of apprenticeship opportunities at all levels. Sefton Elevate EBP delivers an application form workshop and organises practice interviews for students in Year 11 with a local employer. This experience, together with a personal debrief session, gives students far more confidence during interviews, as well as providing impartial

inspiration. All Year 11 students receive a one-to-one career meeting with our schools' Careers Advisor to assist with their decisions post 16 and signpost them to information regarding their post 16 and career interests.

Inclusion

Inclusion for all students from most vulnerable, young carers, disadvantaged, EAL & SEND. We are an educationally inclusive school, where the teaching and learning, achievements, attitudes and well-being of every learner matters. We provide an inclusive curriculum which includes careers development across the key stages and meets the needs of all our pupils, including those with disabilities, special educational needs, and different cultural and ethnic backgrounds.

- Whole Year 7 cohort aspirational visit to Edge Hill campus. SEND students attend a virtual work experience event in the summer term - VR Explore using virtual reality to discover workplaces and skills required in the workplace.
- Disadvantaged priority places to Liverpool University trip visit in Year 8.
- Year 9, 1 to 1 guidance careers adviser and 1 to 1 advice prior to options choices to make informed decisions. Meet the employers' event to discuss careers and the wider world of work
- Year 10 priority work experience placements to suit the needs and abilities of students. Career adviser meetings to view post 16 options and destinations. College taster day summer term
- Year 11 all disadvantaged students are prioritised for career guidance meeting with external careers adviser with a follow up appointment and support with post 16 applications. Application workshops, mock interviews with employers and careers convention priority visits.
- Sixth form priority careers guidance meetings with careers adviser in Year 12, visits to apprenticeship and university fairs. Year 13 support with UCAS applications, careers convention and mock employer interviews.
- Scaffolded support across all year groups in careers lessons on the PSHE timetable
- LFC Foundation and other Personal Development Programmes across school prioritise disadvantaged groups, which support skill development.

In House Support

The inhouse support programme includes investigating post 16 options, letters of application, CVs, application forms and interview techniques. Students also attend a labour market and National Careers Service research workshop with the Careers Leader. Students are regularly given open day information during assemblies and form time with the addition of advertising such notices on our 'class charts notifications platform'. An evening is also held at the school to introduce Sixth Form Options to Year 11 students for those students who see Sixth Form as the best route for them. Students receive at least three careers' assemblies throughout the year giving information on how to utilise the careers opportunities organised within school. In addition to a Careers Advisor appointment, each Year 11 student is also interviewed by a member of SLT to discuss their post 16 options. Year 11 also fully engage with "Meet the Professionals" workshops which take place throughout the year in school and online.

Sixth form Provision

All Sixth Form students are invited to attend a Careers Convention in Maricourt. This gives students the opportunity to seek impartial guidance and advice from over 150 professionals and organisations, to help with their post 18 options. All Sixth form students are given regular opportunities to participate in voluntary work to inspire employment aspiration opportunities. All Year 12 students attend a work experience placement for one week to experience the world of work. All Year 12 students also have a one-to-one appointment with our Careers Advisor. All Year 13 students experience a practice interview with an employer from a chosen career area of interest, the aim of which is to inspire and provides impartial support. All Sixth Form students follow an employability programme which involves a variety of external speakers from a range of pathways. Health and Social Care students participate in taster days at Edge Hill University. Vocational course students are encouraged to participate in a relevant work placement which is in line with their subject area. An impartial follow up careers interview with the Careers Advisor is always available upon referral or request in Year 13. The students are prepared for their UCAS applications and personal statements. This process is overseen by the Head of Sixth form, with workshops also delivered by local universities and the Schools Careers Leader & Careers Advisor. They also attend a presentation in house from University of Central Lancashire about student finance options.

Sixth form students are also offered further support with CV enhancement, interview technique preparation and employability. All students have access to the XELLO careers platform which they can access in school and at home.

Sixth Form tutors are also given regular updated information, and online links to distribute to students during their one-to-one tutorials during form time. Class charts announcements are used to communicate any careers opportunities to students.

Students receive continuous advice on apprenticeship vacancies, employer talks, careers fairs and conventions, courses, opportunities for open day visits, higher education talks, monitoring of progress and voluntary work. Students also have access to our online platform of 'class charts announcements' for all the latest careers' opportunities on offer from universities, apprenticeships, live webinars and virtual work experience opportunities which are advertised regularly.

Information Advice and Guidance

All students in Years 7-13 currently have access to an Impartial Independent Careers Advisor and all students in these year groups are regularly reminded to visit the Careers Room during break and lunchtime regarding Careers, Work Experience, Post-14, 16 or 18 Options. This time is fully utilised by students. The Careers room and notice boards are updated with prospectuses, apprenticeship and traineeship vacancies, help sheets, careers information, there is also computer access. There is also a television screen outside the careers office which advertises notices and careers of the week.

Students and parents are also encouraged to use the Careers link on the school website which gives updates, web links, vacancies and other work-related learning opportunities and are regularly e-mailed home to parents and advertised on our online platforms such as class

charts announcements. Parents will also be allocated an 'Xello' log in for the Career's platform for them to optionally view and track students' engagement in careers activities and planning for the future.

The Careers department makes use of all the school's social media platforms and encourages both students and parents to follow posts for the latest updates. This is in addition to signposting to the Careers area of the website.

There is a calendar of events on the school website which gives students and parents advanced notices of up-and-coming events, careers related presentations, initiatives and workshops.

At the end of Year 11 students get to keep their detailed careers management file from Compass Plus, which has been compiled over the five years in Maricourt from Year 7 to 11. Sefton Elevate EBP are involved with the KS4 work related learning activities such as application workshops. Students are proud of their work and experiences and showcase Maricourt mercy values throughout careers' events and activities.

All year groups have the opportunity to develop their employability and enterprise skills through taking part in various activities on the whole school activity days. Examples include teamwork, presentation, finance, listening skills and creativity. Aintree Racecourse offers something to every year group in enterprise, careers and employability skills.

Alumni are regularly used to inspire students and act as role models covering a range of subjects and year groups in coordination with the Careers Leader and Curriculum Leaders.

Staff Development and Cross Curricular Links

All staff are expected to contribute to the career learning and development of students in their different roles. Subject Curriculum Leaders embed careers learning opportunities into their schemes of learning and Curriculum plans. Curriculum Leaders complete a careers survey in which they capture career opportunities completed across key stages. Staff can seek advice and guidance from the Careers Leader.

All departments organise and deliver at least two CIAG initiatives, trips, talks or workshops. A particular strength are the STEM subject areas.

Form tutors and subject tutors support the delivery of Careers Education through the PSHE curriculum, which is planned and resourced by the Careers Leader, so it is relevant to age, statutory and local needs. They also support in the delivery of careers resources to celebrate National Careers and Apprenticeships weeks.

To meet the training needs that arise from this we will arrange CPD, outreach support and briefing updates.

A Careers directory of subject specific links is updated and distributed regularly to departments, parents and students. An Alumni list is shared with Curriculum links to network and build up subject specific contacts to inspire students and raise aspirations in lessons.

There is also additional support in logging of student participation in Careers Compass Plus systems. All participation of one-to-one guidance meetings is now added to our Compass Plus platform.

Higher Attaining Students

High ability students are given the opportunity to attend a variety of impartial experiences and workshops, with employers and providers giving inspiration and guidance in a range of industry sectors. Students will be involved in Higher Education visits led by different subject areas. High ability students are also prioritised for one-to-one guidance interviews to facilitate aspirations and sign posting. We consider the needs of the individual student when allocating suitable work experience placements.

Stakeholders and Partners

Parents and Careers

We recognise the important role that parents have in their child's career development. Parents are contacted regularly via class charts announcements and have a designated area under the Careers area of the school website. Parents are invited to the annual Careers Convention, Year 9 parents evening which complements the options process, Sixth Form information resources, Year 11 information evening and have access to the Independent Careers Advisor during parents' and information evenings. Careers events are also reported in the Maricourt newsletter termly. Parents are also allocated an Xello log in to access the careers platform and track students' engagement on the platform, planning for next steps and decision making for their careers.

Careers Support Agencies

The school's Independent Careers Advisor is Level 6 guidance trained and commits to regular ongoing CPD which is supported by the school.

As part of the Liverpool City Region Careers Hub the school is committed to the ongoing work directed by the Careers and Enterprise Company.

At Maricourt we work closely with Sefton Elevate Business Partnership to support the delivery of the KS4 employability programme which includes work experience, practice interviews and application form workshops. The school also participates in many funded opportunities delivered by them throughout the year.

The school is committed to working closely with Careers Connect and the local authority teams to support positive destinations for the young people.

Employers, Community Partners and Learning Providers

Everton in the Community (EITC) and the LFC foundation are based in school throughout the year delivering an agreed action plan to target groups in all year groups.

Higher Education, colleges, local learning and apprenticeship providers work collaboratively with the school to support the Careers programme in school. Links, qualifications and initiatives are labour market lead and are designed to support career and employment pathways for students.

Through the school's Alumni contacts, 'Meet the Professionals' networking and extensive work experience programme, and practice interviews, we are committed to maintaining the strong relationships with the hundreds of employers who help support our work-related learning provision.

Monitoring, reviewing, evaluating and reporting

The school is committed to CPD for Careers and all team members actively seek CPD opportunities. All staff have access log ins to Xello to support careers planning in their subjects.

Regular meetings with Elevate Business Partnership, Careers Hub Network, Archdiocese link meetings, School governor careers link, partner and community link reviews and the School Enterprise link ensure a robust programme which meets all the criteria of the Gatsby Benchmarks and Government Statutory Guidance.

This combined with extensive student voice, staff voice, parent voice, external provider and employer feedback ensures that there is a robust Careers programme that caters for all.

The Careers Leader meets termly with the link governor to review provision and reports directly to the governing board.

Annual Monitoring and Evaluations

The implementation of the careers programme will be monitored and reviewed by:

- Reviews with Elevate Business Partnership
- Reviews with Everton in the Community (EITC) & the LFC foundation
- Reviews with the independent Careers Advisor
- Reviews with Aintree Racing to Schools
- Student Voice in all year groups of all events in addition to Future Skills questionnaires.
- Internal monitoring includes reviews with Form Tutors and Pastoral Leaders.
- Work Experience monitoring, student completion of work experience journals with reviews from students, parents, employers and visiting staff from school.
- Application form workshop and practice interview evaluations
- Compass plus tracking with the school Enterprise link and Careers Hub lead.

Funding and Resources

The school has a designated Careers Leader, part time Careers Advisor, and administrative support. Funding and resources for Careers are allocated in the school budget and staffing plans.

Destinations

All student destinations are collected in house by the school's Careers Leader and Careers Advisor in collaboration with the local authority services and changes are made to the Careers programme accordingly.

Virtual/ Resource Learning

All students are offered additional opportunities to engage with virtual careers fairs and employer tours, take part in webinars, enter careers competitions and live talks with our external partnerships and employer links. This has ensured the students have remained engaged with careers opportunities boosting their self-esteem and confidence for face-to-face initiatives. All year groups have opportunities to meet virtually with employers and carry out virtual work experience tasks remotely with supervision from Maricourt staff if taking place in school hours at Maricourt, and parents' consent for external opportunities offered outside of school hours during holidays. Students in all year groups have opportunities to engage with additional career opportunities remotely such as webinars, meet the employers and virtual work experience placements on offer.

We advertise all career opportunities for schools on our remote learning noticeboard platform of class charts announcements as well as on the Maricourt website and school social media platforms.

Annexes

An Annual Careers Plan with events can be viewed on the school website and is updated regularly. Careers education road maps which have been showcased across the Liverpool City Region.

This policy is connected to other related policies such as PSHE and Citizenship, Wellbeing, Equality and Diversity, SMSC, and Inclusion. There are strong links in teaching and learning and curriculum schemes of learning in relation to personal development. Inclusion and Mercy values are encouraged which result in a reward culture across all key stages for Careers and subject areas who relate to Careers and inspire students in their curriculum regularly each term.