



Education of Children Looked After (CLA) Policy

Policy Name:	Education of Looked After Children Policy			Review Date:	Every 3 Year 24.05.2020
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EDUCATION OF CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER (CLA) POLICY

RATIONALE

Guidance on the Education of Young People in Public Care places schools with a specific duty to:

- provide all children with a Personal Education Plan (PEP) within 20 days of entering care or joining a new school
- appoint a Designated Teacher in schools to act as a resource and advocate for looked after children; liaise with Social Care and other key partners on behalf of children.

Where a young person is on a full care order (Care Order – Section 31 Children Act 1989) it means that the parental responsibility for that young person is shared by parents and Social Services. The term ‘in care’ refers solely to children who are subject to care orders

Where a young person is accommodated (Accommodated – Section 20 children Act 1989) it means that the parental responsibility for that child remains with the parents. Children who are cared for on a voluntary basis are ‘accommodated’ by the local authority

Both these groups are said to be ‘Looked After’ by the local authority. This can be with foster carers, in the residential network/school or with kinship carers.

PURPOSE

The designated teacher (Mrs S Williams) ensures procedures are in place which:

- familiarise staff and governors (designated governor Sue Pearson) with their role as corporate parents
- ensure that all staff are aware of the difficulties faced by children who are looked after
- promote positive support systems and an ethos of acceptance which challenges negative stereotypes for CLA
- maintain a register of CLA and keeps all relevant education and care information about children who are looked after up to date.
- ensure education records are received/passed on if a CLA transfers school and procedures are in place to welcome new students to the school
- provide information about resources for CLA
- promote the involvement of CLA in extra-curricular activities
- ensure that effective systems are in place that monitor the educational progress, levels of attainment of CLA

GUIDELINES

The designated teacher (Mrs S. Williams) works with the school mentor and the family support worker

- to ensure that appropriate levels of confidentiality are maintained for the young person
- to facilitate the setting up and updating of Personal Education Plans and to enable the young person to make a contribution to his/her Personal Education Plan and/or Care Plan
- to attend, or arrange for someone else to attend, or to contribute to Care Planning Meetings and/or statutory reviews
- to monitor attendance of CLA, recording and reporting unexplained absence of 5 days or over to the Education Welfare Service
- to ensure appropriate spend of the CLA premium using the strategic provision headings of Enrichment; Intervention or Extension
- to liaise with School Health and other multi – agency partners
- to facilitate combined Social Care Department Statutory Reviews and annual reviews of statements of SEN
- to ensure there is a named contact for colleagues in Education and Social Care Departments
- to intervene if there is evidence of individual under-achievement
- to involve appropriate carers/parents in home/school arrangements