



FIRST STEPS TOGETHER
SKILLS FOR LIFE

THE EDUCATION OF LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN POLICY

Last Update: September 2024

Next Update: September 2027

Statement and Vision

Who are our Looked After Children and Young People?

Children and young people become 'Looked After' either if they have been taken into Care by the Local Authority, either via a legal route under The Children's Act 1989 or where a voluntary agreement has been reached with the family.

First Steps Together in partnership with the placing authorities as Corporate Parents have a special duty to safeguard and promote the education of Looked After Children and Young People in order to:

- provide a safe and secure environment, where education is valued and there is a belief in the abilities and potential of all children/young people.
- support our Looked After Children and Young People and give them access to every opportunity to achieve their potential and enjoy learning.
- fulfil our establishment's role as corporate parents to promote and support the education of our Looked After Children and Young People, by asking the question, 'Would this be good enough for my child/young person?'

First Steps Together will:

- Ensure a nominated SLT member oversees the provision for Looked After Children and Young People within their schools and ensure that appropriate advocacy and support is provided.
- Support the designated teacher in carrying out their role by making time available and ensuring that they attend any specific training regarding Looked After Children and Young People which is required to ensure that they have the most up to date information on supporting Looked After Children and Young People.
- Review all policies and procedures annually to ensure that they adequately address the needs of Looked After Children and Young People and that those children/young people have access to all aspects of education, particularly with regard to admissions, curriculum, examinations, extra support, extra-curricular activities, work experience and careers guidance.

- Ensure the school has a clear and consistent plan for the designated teacher to attend the pupil's Personal Education Plan (PEP) meetings to ensure coherence and efficiency in planning and attaining targets.
- Ensure the schools evaluate the quality of the provision for Looked After Children and Young People in order to improve outcomes.

Each School and Learning Centre will:

- Ensure all relevant staff have appropriate training.
- Have a nominated designated person for looked after children.
- Further support the designated teacher to meet the requirements of the role.

The Designated Person will:

- Be an advocate for any Looked After Children and Young People in the establishment.
- Maintain an up to date record of all Looked After Children and Young People who are on the school roll. This will include:
 - Status, i.e., care order or Section 20 accommodation
 - Type of placement, i.e., Foster, Respite, Residential.
 - The name of the local authority and allocated social worker.
 - Name of Virtual school Head of their LA.
 - Baseline information, including: assessment of need, academic data, attendance and exclusion data.
- Ensure that there is a PEP for each child/young person to include appropriate targets. This must be compatible with the child's/young person's Care Plan and, where applicable, include any other school plan e.g. statement of education needs and/or Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP), Transition Plan and Pastoral Support Programme.
- Ensure that someone attends the Childrens' Services Reviews on each child/young person and/or always prepares a written report which promotes the continuity and stability of their education.

- Liaise with social care and the pupil's placing authority on a regular basis with regard to the performance, attendance and attainment of the Looked After Children and Young People.
- Provide the LA with termly attainment updates to enable clear tracking to be available for all Looked After Children and Young People. This could involve arranging access to Authority Link.
- Ensure that if/when the child/young person transfers to a different school all relevant information is forwarded to the receiving school as a matter of priority.
- Ensure that systems are in place to identify and prioritise when Looked After Children and Young People are underachieving and to ensure they have access to early interventions to support their progress including access to 1:1 tuition if appropriate.
- Ensure that systems are in place to keep staff up to date and informed about Looked After Children and Young People.
- Ensure that Looked After Children and Young People, along with all children/young people, are listened to and have equal opportunity to pastoral support in the school.
- Ensure that school leaders are up to date with current legislation and its implications in respect of Looked After Children and Young People.
- Ensure that they evaluate the performance data for all Looked After Children and Young People and that it is recorded in the school's self-evaluation documentation.
- Ensure that PEP meetings are held regularly with current information on attainment, progress and attendance reported upon during the meeting.
- Ensure that papers required for each PEP meeting will be available at least 48 hours prior to the start of the meeting or there will be reading time at the start of the meetings if new papers are tabled.
- Unless otherwise agreed arrange for the child or young person should attend all or part of the meeting and should be released from lessons to do so.
- Following a PEP meeting, targets and actions will be circulated to all relevant teaching and support staff immediately after the PEP meetings or as soon as minutes are received from the social worker.

- Further details raised at PEP meetings will be circulated to other teaching and support staff on a 'need to know' basis as agreed at the meeting and, in best practice, agreed with the child or young person concerned.
- Discuss issues relating to attendance and/or exclusions with the placing authority to ensure that there is as little disruption to a child/young person's education as possible. When considering a permanent exclusion, a discussion will be held with School Leaders.

The Senior leaders and Governing Body will:

- Ensure all leaders are fully aware of the legal requirements and Guidance for Looked After Children and Young People.
- Ensure that there is a named Designated Person for Looked After Children and Young People.
- For child protection and confidentiality reasons, ensure that information will be collected and reported in ways that preserve the anonymity and respect of the confidentiality of the children/young people concerned.
- Review the effective implementation of this policy on an annual basis.
- Ensure that the school's other policies and procedures give Looked After Children and Young People equal access in respect of:
 - admission to school
 - the school's full curriculum offer and public examinations
 - additional educational support where this is needed
 - extra-curricular activities (where possible)
 - work experience (where possible) and careers guidance.
- Support the Local Authority in its statutory duty to promote the educational achievement of Looked After Children and Young People
- Ensure that appropriate systems and procedures are in place in the establishments even if there are no Looked After Children or Young People on roll at the time and that the

designated person continues to attend training and is up to date in regards to the legal processes.

Further reading

SEN Code of Practice