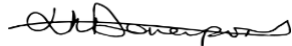

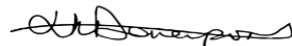






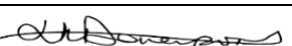




Ysgol Uwchradd
Prestatyn
High School

Looked After Children Policy

Author	Date Adopted by Gov Body	Signed by Chair of Gov	Review Date
DCC	06/02/13		Feb 2014
DCC	15/02/14		Feb 2015
CLT	11/02/15		Feb 2016
CLT	10/2/17		Feb 2017
CLT	15/2/17		Feb 2018
CLT	23/5/18		May 2019
CLT	22/5/19		May 2020
KER	24/6/20		May 2021
CLT	26/5/21		May 2022
CLT	25/5/22		May 2023

School: Prestatyn High School

Head teacher: Mr Neil Foley

LAC Designated Teacher: Mrs Claire Turner

LAC Governor: Mrs. J. Newell

Rationale

The Governing Body, as Corporate Parent is responsible for ensuring that the school complies with legislation relating to Looked After Children, and that this policy and related protocols, procedures and strategies are implemented.

Guidance is provided in *Guidance on the Education of Children Looked After by Local Authorities*: National Assembly for Wales, April 2007 and *Making a Difference: A guide for the designated person for looked after children in schools*, November 2017, which should be referred to in relation to this policy.

Purpose and Principles

The purpose of this document is to provide guidance to staff regarding the welfare of Looked After Children. The Head teacher as Corporate Parent is responsible for implementing the policy: for ensuring that all staff are aware of their responsibilities and are given appropriate training and support, and for taking appropriate action in any cases of unlawful discrimination.

All staff are expected to identify and challenge stereotyping or discrimination of Looked After Children and to deal with racist, sexist or homophobic incidents that may occur.

The aims of the Looked After Children Policy at Prestatyn High School are to;

- Ensure that an inclusive ethos is established and maintained
- Ensure that Looked After Children are encouraged to reach their full potential
- Protect the rights and promote the responsibilities of Looked After Children
- Ensure that the school is a place where everyone, irrespective of their family circumstances, race, colour, ethnic or national origin, gender, sexual orientation or disability feels welcomed and valued
- Prepare Looked After Children for the challenges, choices and responsibilities of living in a diverse society
- Empower Looked After Children to participate in their communities as active citizens who take responsibility for themselves and each other
- Foster and encourage positive attitudes and behaviour towards members of the community whose circumstances, race, sexuality or ability is different from their own

Broad Guidelines

The National Assembly for Wales Guidance 2/2001: *Education of Children Looked After by Local Authorities* sets out the duties for those responsible for the welfare of Looked After Children. In particular, it is required that:

- The Governing Body should, with the head teacher, ensure that school's ethos should incorporate high expectations for Looked After Children. They should make every effort to see that support arrangements are in place and that appropriate staffing and funding arrangements are set up.
- Each school should designate a teacher to act as a resource and advocate for Looked After Children. In Prestatyn High School the designated teacher is Mrs Claire Turner. She should ensure the transfer of educational information between individuals and agencies, check that each child has a Personal Education Plan (PEP), and that a Home-School Agreement is drawn up with the primary carer.
- Every Looked After Child should have a PEP which ensures access to services and support and signals particular educational needs, establishes clear goals and acts as a record of progress and achievement.

Definitions

The term 'Looked After' was introduced in the Children's Act 1989 and refers to children who are subject to care orders and those who are accommodated. Whether children are subject of a care order or are accommodated at a local authority, the local authority, wherever possible, should be working in partnership with the parents. Parents retain primary parental responsibility for their children when they are accommodated; though the local authority still has responsibilities as corporate parent. Many Looked After Children retain strong links with their families and return home to them after periods in care.

Welsh Assembly statistics from March 1999 showed that 76% of Looked After Children lived in foster placements, with the rest living in residential provision or with their families with social work support.

Delivery and Organisation

Prestatyn High School ensures that the aims of this policy are taken into account in our planning and practices, including those that are concerned with:

- Planned teaching of relevant knowledge and understanding, skills, values and attitudes within the National Curriculum subjects and RE. Teachers should be sensitive in dealing with aspects of the curriculum which deal with family values.
- Teaching and learning strategies which use interactive and experiential approaches that are relevant and suitable to the needs and attitudes of Looked After Children and which offer ample time for discussion and reflection
- Progress, attainment and assessment, behaviour, discipline and exclusions
- Admissions and attendance

- Encouragement of pupils to take responsibility for their own learning and self assessment of progress
- Valuing pupils and promoting positive relationships and self esteem
- Promoting the role of the Designated Teacher, Mrs Claire Turner
- Effective co-ordination and staff training and support
- Partnership with Social Services, parents, carers and the community. Regular co-ordination of all staff involved in the care of Looked After Children may be monitored in Multi Agency meetings
- Opportunities in school for Looked After Pupils to participate in decision making, particularly through the auspices of the School Council
- Participation in extra-curricular experiences should be encouraged, though the school needs to be sensitive to the fact that some pupils live in families which are suffering hardships. Help should be provided, in a sensitive manner, to ensure that Looked After Children are not excluded.
- Personal and Social Education lessons offer opportunities for pupils to discuss and understand the many ways of being 'different', of stereotyping, prejudice, discrimination and bullying and of how to respond to them appropriately
- Support for homework
- Older pupils may need curricular flexibility to re-engage them or to sustain them in school. For them, a mixture of school, college and work related learning may be more suitable. Opportunities to attend college for part of the school week are available for all pupils.

Support for Looked After Children

- The school will strive, wherever possible, to support the continued involvement of families in their child's progress and achievement, in particular in the arrangements made for admission, transition and Special Educational Needs.
- Looked After Children will be encouraged to have high aspirations and to raise standards through regular attendance, out of school learning support, and behaviour support where appropriate. The Head of Year and Group Tutor will play a vital supporting and monitoring role.
- Looked After Children can be vulnerable to bullying e.g. name calling. Pupils need careful induction into the school and staff will need to be diligent to ensure that no one is isolated or bullied. The designated teacher has an important role in supervising the smooth induction of looked after children, considering the child's need for confidentiality and making the child feel welcome.

The Role of the Designated teacher for Looked After Children

- A senior teacher, with links to the Leadership Team of the school. The LAC Designated Teacher needs to have a voice which can influence and guide decision making within the school. The Designated Teacher may be required to attend meetings, sometimes at short notice, during the school day, and some flexibility may be required.
- To work in conjunction with the Education Liaison Officer (ELO), Head teacher and LAC Governor to ensure that all staff are aware of the difficulties and educational disadvantages faced by Looked After Children and understand the complexity of individual cases (where appropriate), and the need for whole school, positive systems of support to help overcome them.
- To promote the involvement of LAC in extracurricular activities and opportunities, promote home reading and homework support.
- To develop systems for effective communication with carers, parents, social services, health, ELO and any other relevant agencies and support networks.
- To monitor the educational progress of all children who are Looked After in order to intervene quickly at an individual or school level, should additional support be required.
- To work in conjunction with the ELO to ensure all LAC pupils have Personal Education Plans (PEPs), which are a statutory requirement for all LAC. PEPs need to be completed within timescale (20 school days of starting a new school or becoming LAC). PEPs need to be meaningful, detailed and accurate.
- To attend, arrange for a representative, or provide educational updates and reports for reviews, PEPs and meetings. Ensure a speedy transfer of information and documents (securely) between agencies.
- To support pupils to share their views and make a contribution to their PEP. Ensure the pupil voice is heard and represented.
- To work closely and liaise with the Governor with responsibility for LAC.
- To be aware of the child's legal status, contact arrangements, those with Parental Responsibility (PR).
- To be aware, where possible of those pupils who are on a Special Guardianship Order (SGO) or have been adopted and have previously been LAC.

Wider School Staff

- LAC Designated Teacher to allocate a key member of staff the young person can speak with or meet with regularly, with or without prior warning where possible. Ensure the young person is in agreement with the allocated worker.
- To ensure all school staff who are in contact with Looked After Children have the appropriate amount of information regarding the young person's circumstances and are at least aware they are looked after by the Local Authority.
- In the absence of the usual class teacher(s), some information regarding the child's circumstances should be shared with the covering teacher. The extent of this sharing should be determined by the Head teacher or the Designated teacher.

Training

- To develop own knowledge and understanding of Social Care / Education procedures and keep up to date with relevant training and attend training opportunities provided eg LAC Forum.

- To ensure all school staff have the appropriate training opportunities in order to fully support LAC within the school.
- To cascade information and training to school staff as appropriate.
- To have a firm understanding of the LAC / PDG Funding arrangements at a regional, local, school and individual pupil level. Be aware of the procedures and the impact of the funding on individual LAC pupils.
(This will be recorded on the PEP).

The Role of the LAC Governor

- To work closely with the LAC Designated teacher and ELO and have a good understanding of the difficulties and educational disadvantages faced by Looked After Children and what the school does to support LAC.
- The LAC Governor will report to the Governing Body on an annual basis, including information such as;
Number of LAC in the school, Attendance of LAC, Comparison of test scores / levels, Levels of fixed term / permanent exclusions of LAC
- The LAC Governor, as a critical friend, should feel comfortable to question and support the school in promoting the educational achievement and welfare of LAC.
- The LAC Governor should be satisfied that the school's policies and procedures ensure LAC pupils have equal access to; National Curriculum / additional educational support and extracurricular activities.
- To share and cascade information regarding LAC to other Governors and report to the Chair of Governors.

Links to Other Policies

Guidance on the Education of Children Looked After by Local Authorities: National Assembly for Wales Circular 2007

Prestatyn High School Behaviour Policy, including anti-bullying strategies

Prestatyn High School Admissions

Equal Opportunities policies

Safeguarding Policy

ALN policy

Personal and Social Education/ Religious Studies Scheme of Work

Provision for Regular Review of the LAC Policy

The LAC policy for Prestatyn High School is ratified by the School's Governing body and reviewed on an annual basis.