



Policy for Children Looked After (CLA)

Date approved: 3 May 2023

Review cycle/date: Every year; May 2024

Party responsible: Headteacher, Student Committee

Linked policies: Child Protection (Safeguarding) Policy; Attendance Policy; Behaviour & Exclusions Policy; SEND Policy; Policy for Preventing & Tackling Bullying; Curriculum Policy; Accessibility Policy

The Swanage School believes it has a special duty to safeguard and promote the education of Children Looked After and provide focussed pastoral support. The School understands the powerful role it can play in significantly improving the quality of life and the educational experiences of these students. Our school ethos which promotes respect for all students, values diversity and is centred around developing strong relationships with every student provides a secure environment in which to achieve these outcomes.

Therefore this policy should be read alongside:

School policies on Inclusion, Behaviour, Child Protection, PHSE, Racial Equality, SEND, Antbullying, Attendance, Curriculum and the School Development Plan.

There is however compelling evidence that reliance on a supportive whole-school approach is not enough on its own. Children in care may be overlooked without specific policies and practices to highlight their needs. The educational achievement of Children Looked After in general remains unacceptably low. That is why the Children Act 2004 (Section 52) places a duty on local authorities to promote the educational achievement of these students.

To ensure that The Swanage School meets the educational, social and emotional needs of Children Looked After the school will:

1. Designate a nominated teacher and governor for looked after students to be an advocate for these students within school, providing an opportunity for their views to be heard and their feelings made known.
2. Maintain a current list of looked after students including contact information and change of care status and ensure the electronic data concerning looked after students is correct.
3. Closely monitor the progress and attendance of looked after students and provide suitable interventions if necessary, having regard to the individual needs of every student.
4. Ensure each looked after child has a Personal Education Plan (PEP) that reflects the student's achievements and targets.

5. Work in partnership with all professionals, parents and carers of looked after students.
6. Attend and contribute to all PEP meetings and attend CLA reviews as required.
7. Keep Governors informed in a yearly report on the achievement of children in public care so they are able to fulfil their duties to these students. To include:
 - a. The number of Children Looked After on the school's roll (if any).
 - b. Their attendance, as a discrete group, compared to other pupils.
 - c. The number of fixed term and permanent exclusions (if any) for CLA pupils.
 - d. The destinations of CLA pupils who leave the school.
 - e. The information for this report should be collected and reported in ways that preserve the anonymity and respect the confidentiality of the pupils concerned.
8. Ensure top priority for Children Looked After in the school's admission policy (Section 106 of the Education Act 2005)
9. Seek to address behavioural issues for Children Looked After to avoid exclusion.
10. All Looked After Children will be offered the opportunity of having fortnightly mentoring sessions, with an appropriate adult as agreed with carers and professionals and in partnership with the individual student.
11. Ensure the designated teacher has training for their role and keeps all staff informed on issues concerning Children Looked After.
12. Liaise with other schools and educational providers to facilitate the effective transfer of students, recognising that for some looked after students change of care placement will result in school transfer during the school year.
13. Communicate high expectations and celebrate the achievements of our looked after students.
14. Work closely with the virtual school team to ensure adequate provision.

Governor

The named Governor with special responsibility for Children Looked After in the school:

Tanya Hamilton-Fletcher

Designated Teacher

The named nominated teacher with special responsibility for Children Looked After in the school:

Ms J Maraspin (Headteacher)

The Safeguarding & Welfare Officer also has responsibility for Children Looked After:

Ms M Sands