

Colyton Grammar School CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER AND PREVIOUSLY LOOKED AFTER POLICY
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Background

A 'looked after child' is a child who is (a) in the care of a local authority, or (b) being provided with accommodation by a local authority in the exercise of their social services function (see definition in section 22(1) of the Children Act 1989). Previously looked after children are children who were looked after, but ceased to be so because they were adopted or became subject to a child arrangement order or special guardian ship order.

The Children's Act 2004 places a duty to safeguard Children in Care and to ensure they achieve to and reach their full potential.

We aim to fulfil this through:

- having high expectations
- inclusion in all activities
- achieving continuity and stability for the child.

The designated teacher is the nominated Assistant Headteacher. Pastoral staff for each sector have responsibility for monitoring the progress of individuals.

ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITY OF THE DESIGNATED TEACHER

The Designated Teacher should:

- be an advocate for Children Looked After and Previously Looked After.
- ensure a smooth and welcoming induction for the child and carer/s and parent/s where possible. Note any specific requirements, including care status;
- ensure that a Personal Education Plan is completed (within 20 days of entering care or joining a new school). This should be prepared with the child and the carer/s (and parent/s if possible), in liaison with the social worker, Head of the Virtual School and other relevant support workers/agencies.
- ensure that each Children Looked After and Previously Looked After has an identified member of staff that they can talk to
- ensure entry to examinations for all Children Looked After and Previously Looked After
- co-ordinate support for the child in the school and liaise with other professionals and carers as necessary;
- ensure staff receive relevant information and training;
- ensure confidentiality for individual children and only share personal information on a need to know basis;
- provide written information to assist planning/review meetings and ensure attendance as far as possible;
- encourage Children Looked After and Previously Looked After to participate in extra-curricular activities and out of hours learning;

ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITY OF THE GOVERNING BODY

The Board of Trustees in this school will:

- ensure that admission criteria prioritise Children Looked After and Previously looked After, according to the Code of Practice on Admission and in accordance with our Admissions Policies
- ensure all trustees are fully aware of the legal requirements and Guidance for Children Looked After and Previously Looked After;
- ensure that there is a named Designated Teacher for Children Looked After and Previously Looked After;
- nominate a trustee who links with the Designated Teacher, receives regular progress reports and provides feedback to the Board of Trustees
- for child protection and confidentiality reasons, ensure that information will be collected and reported in ways that preserve the anonymity, and respect the confidentiality of the pupils concerned.
- review the effective implementation of this policy, at least every three years.
- ensure that the school's other policies and procedures give Children Looked After and Previously Looked After equal access in respect of:
 - Admission to school
 - The National Curriculum and public examinations
 - Additional educational support where this is needed, extra-curricular activities; work experience and careers guidance.

EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

No equality impact issues have been identified with this policy.

CONSULTATION

This policy will be consulted upon with:

- The Senior Leadership Team
- The Safeguarding Lead
- Other key pastoral staff
- Trustees