



LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN (LAC) POLICY

Adopted: Summer 26

Review: Summer 29

Policy Review and Monitoring

This policy is due to be reviewed at the time stated, unless circumstances determine that this policy needs to be reviewed at an earlier time.

Signed: Chair of Governors
Mr J. Orchard

Headteacher
Mr K. Stroud

LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN (LAC) POLICY

This policy has been updated to reflect the Welsh Government's 2026 guidance on the role of the Designated Person for Looked After Children (LAC).

Introduction

Nationally, 'looked after children' significantly underachieve and are at greater risk of exclusion compared with their peers. Schools have a major part to play in ensuring that children looked after are healthy, confident individuals who become ambitious and capable citizens of Wales.

Helping these pupils to succeed and providing a better future for them is a key priority for Maes yr Haul Primary School. In line with the approach identified in the Admissions Code, this policy considers both children currently in the care of the local authority ("looked after") and those who have previously been ("care experienced").

Key Principles

The school's approach to supporting the educational achievement of LAC is based on the following principles:

- prioritising education,
- promoting attendance,
- targeting support,
- having high expectations,
- promoting inclusion through challenging and changing attitudes,
- ensuring that trauma-informed and attachment-aware practice throughout the school workforce.
- achieving stability and continuity,
- early intervention and priority action,
- listening to children,
- promoting health and wellbeing,
- reducing exclusions and promoting stability,
- working in partnership with carers, social workers and other professionals.

The school is committed to helping every looked after child to achieve the highest standards they can, including supporting aspirations to achieve in further and higher education. This can be measured by improvement in their achievements and attendance.

Responsibilities

The Governing Body

The Governing Body is committed to providing quality education for all pupils and will, therefore:

- Give priority consideration to looked after children in the school's oversubscription criteria - in line with the Wales School Admissions Code 2018, which require admissions authorities to give top priority for admission to looked after children in their oversubscription criteria.
- Ensure a designated person for looked after children is appointed with sufficient seniority to provide leadership, challenge and strategic oversight.
- Ensure that Personal Education Plans (PEP) are implemented and regularly reviewed for every looked after child,
- Identify a governor as a nominated governor with oversight for LAC.

The Headteacher will:

- ensure that the needs of looked after children are given appropriate priority,
- ensure that negative stereotypes about looked after children.
- ensure that staff are trained in trauma-informed practice.

The Senior Leadership Team will:

- work to ensure that staff make proper allowance for the emotional and behavioural needs linked to trauma,
- seek appropriate support from the Education Psychology Service or other appropriate support for the child and staff. The school will liaise closely with therapeutic workers already engaged with the child,
- give appropriate support to the designated person.

The designated person will:

- undertake regular updated training on the care system and trauma impact,
- ensure timely communication with LA, social services, EWO, inclusion staff etc,
- ensure that the child knows where to seek support,
- investigate any causes of concern and any individual cases,
- liaise with the nominated governor,
- ensure that staff are appropriately trained,
- ensure that paperwork, including the PEP, is up to date and where possible attend all LAC review meetings.

Links with other policies and legislation

This policy links with several other school policies and documentation, and it is important that governors have regard to the needs of looked after children when reviewing them:

- Admissions Policy,
- Behaviour & Relationships Policy
- Anti-bullying Policy,
- Equal Opportunities Policies,
- Safeguarding Policy
- ALN Code for Wales

Equal Opportunities

It is the responsibility of all staff to ensure as far as is reasonably practicable that looked after children's needs are taken seriously and given appropriate priority.

Linked Documents

[WG School admissions code](#) (July 2013)

[Making a difference: a guide to the designated person for children looked after in Wales](#) (February 2026)

[Raising ambitions and educational attainment of children who are looked after](#) (January 2016)

[Children in Care - NSPCC Learning](#) (Sept 2025)

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