



LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN (LAC) POLICY

Adopted: Autumn 24

Review: Autumn 27

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

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 in the care of the local authority and those who have been.

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,
- 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 teacher for looked after children is appointed and enabled to carry out the responsibilities set out below, and given appropriate training to enable him/her to carry out this function,
- Ensure a personal education plan (PEP) is put in place, implemented, and regularly reviewed for every looked after child,
- Identify a governor as a nominated governor for LAC and give appropriate training to enable him/her to carry out this function.

The Headteacher will:

- ensure that the needs of looked after children are given appropriate priority.
- ensure that the programme put in place by the designated teacher raises awareness of and challenges negative stereotypes about looked after children.

The Senior Leadership Team will:

- work to ensure that staff make proper allowance for the emotional and behavioural difficulties which may arise because of previous experiences in the home, in care and in other schools.
- 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 teacher.

The designated teacher will:

- ensure that suitable programmes are in place to achieve the aims of this policy,
- ensure that the child knows where to seek support,
- investigate any causes of concern and any individual cases,
- ensure any ALN identified follows the school's graduated response,
- propose appropriate responses to the relevant staff,
- liaise with the nominated governor,
- ensure that staff are appropriately trained,
- ensure all 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

[School admissions code | GOV.WALES](#) (July 2013)

[making-a-difference-a-guide-for-the-designated-person-for-looked-after-children-in-schools.pdf \(gov.wales\)](#) (November 2017)

<https://www.gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2018-03/strategy-raising-the-ambitions-and-educational-attainment-of-children-who-are-looked-after-in-wales.pdf> (January 2016)

[Looked after children | NSPCC Learning](#) (March 2024)

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