

**ST. DAVID'S HIGH
SCHOOL**

**EDUCATION OF LOOKED
AFTER CHILDREN**

**Reviewed by Governors
October 2024**



Guidance on the Education of Young People in Public Care places schools with a specific duty to:

- provide all children with a Personal Education Plan (PEP) within 20 days of entering care or joining a new school
- appoint a Designated Teacher in schools to act as a resource and advocate for looked after children; liaise with Social Services and other key partners on behalf of children.

Where a young person is on a full care order (Care Order - Section 30 Children Act 1989) it means that the parental responsibility for that young person is shared by parents and Social Services. The term 'in care' refers solely to children who are subject to care orders.

Where a young person is accommodated (Accommodated - Section 21 children Act 1989) it means that the parental responsibility for that child remains with the parents. Children who are cared for on a voluntary basis are 'accommodated' by the local authority.

Both these groups are said to be 'Looked After' by the local authority. This can be with foster carers, in the residential network/school or with kinship carers.

The designated teacher (T. Jones) ensures procedures are in place which:

- familiarise staff and governors of their role as corporate parents
- ensures that all staff are aware of the difficulties faced by Looked After children
- promotes positive support systems and an ethos of acceptance which challenges negative stereotypes for Looked After children
- maintains a register of Looked After Children and keeps all relevant education and care information about Looked After children up to date.
- ensures education records are received/passed on if a Looked After child transfers school and procedures are in place to welcome new students to the school
- provides information about resources for Looked After children
- promotes the involvement of Looked After children in extra-curricular activities
- ensures that effective systems are in place that monitors the educational progress, levels of attainment of Looked After children
- ensure that appropriate levels of confidentiality are maintained for the young person
- facilitate the setting up and updating of Personal Education Plans and to enable the young person to contribute to his/her Personal Education Plan and/or Care Plans
- attend, or arrange for someone else to attend, or to contribute to Social Services Department Care Planning Meetings and/or statutory reviews
- monitor attendance of Looked After Children, recording and reporting unexplained absence of 5 days or over to the Education Welfare Service.

- liaise with School Health and other multi - agency partners to facilitate combined Social Services Department Statutory reviews and annual reviews of statements of SEN
- is the named contact for colleagues in Education and Social Services Departments
- intervene if there is evidence of individual under-achievement
- involve appropriate carers/parents in home/school arrangements