

Bay Learning Academy CIC

Education of Children Looked After Policy 2024 - 2025

Raising the aspirations of Children Looked After, supporting them in their journey to succeed and providing a better future for them is an important priority at Bay Academy.

This policy considers:

- The Education Regulations 2006
- DfE: Keeping Children Safe in Education: Statutory guidance for schools and colleges
- Hull Safeguarding Children Board: Guidelines and procedures
- DfE: Promoting the education of looked after children

The academy's approach to supporting the educational achievement of Children Looked After is based on the following principles:

- Prioritising education
- Promoting attendance
- Targeting support
- High Expectations regarding education achievement and behaviour
- 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 parents, carers, social workers and other professionals.

As for all the learners that attend Bay Academy, we are committed to supporting and helping every Child Looked After 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.

Bay Academy is committed to providing quality education for all learners and will:

- Have an identified Designated Teacher for Children Looked After, who is enabled to carry the responsibilities set out below
- Have the Personal Education Plan provided by the referring school, in place and implemented for every Child Looked After

Responsibility of the Principal

- Identify a Designated Teacher for Children Looked After, whose role is set out below. It is essential that another appropriate person is identified quickly should the Designated Teacher leave the Academy or take sick leave
- Ensure that the procedures are in place to monitor the admission, progress, attendance and any exclusions of Children Looked After and act where progress, conduct or attendance is below expectations
- Report on progress, attendance and conduct of Children Looked After

The role of the Designated Teacher

Government Guidance states that the Designated Teacher should be 'someone with sufficient authority to make things happen...[who] should be an advocate for Children Looked After, assessing services and support, and ensuring that the Academy shares and supports high expectations for them.

The Designated Teacher will:

- Provide a welcome and smooth induction for the learner and their carer, using the PEP to plan for that transition in consultation with the learner's social worker
- Each CLA will have an identified member of staff that they can talk to. This does not necessarily need to be the Designated Teacher but should be based on the learner's wishes. Members of staff who take on this role may need support. They should also be alerted to any child protection issues and any disclosures that learners may make and know what action to take. They should link closely with the Designated Teacher for Child Protection
- Track academic progress and target support appropriately
- Coordinate any support for the learner
- Promote confidentiality for individual learners, sharing personal information on a need-to-know basis
- Act as an advisor to staff, raising their awareness of the needs of Children Looked After
- Set up meetings with relevant parties where the learner is experiencing difficulties in the academy
- Ensure the speedy transfer of information between individuals and agencies
- Support transition in and out of the Academy
- Track academic progress and target support when appropriate
- Promote inclusion in all areas of academy life
- Actively monitor and prevent bullying within the Academy by raising awareness through the academy's anti-bullying policy

The responsibilities of all staff

- High aspirations for the educational and personal achievement of Children Looked After, as for all learners within the Academy
- Maintain Children Looked After's confidentiality and ensure they are supported sensitively
- Respond positively to a learner's request to be the named member of staff whom they can talk to when they feel it is necessary
- Respond promptly to the Designated Teachers' requests for information
- Work to enable Children Looked After to achieve stability and success with the Academy
- Promote the self-esteem of all Children Looked After
- Understand the key issues that affect the learning of Children Looked After
- Work to prevent bullying in line with the Academy's policy

The Principal / Designated Teacher will ensure that all staff are briefed on the regulations and practise in this policy.