

# SEAHAM HIGH SCHOOL



## Looked After Children Policy

<b>Review Date</b>	<b>Cycle</b>	<b>Reviewer</b>	<b>Adopted</b>	<b>Committee</b>
October 2021	3 Yearly	L Whitehead	November 2021	Full Governors
November 2024	3 Yearly	L Whitehead	December 2024	Full Governors

# **Looked After Children Policy**

## **INTRODUCTION**

Seaham High School is committed to ensuring all children have equitable access to a high-quality education delivered within a safe and positive learning environment, which enables them to fulfil their potential.

The school recognises that nationally and locally there is considerable underachievement of looked after children in comparison to their peers largely as a result of the impact of life experiences, rather than differences in overall ability.

Under Section 52 of the Children Act 2004, the school understands and supports its role in working with children, parents and carers and the local authority to ensure underachievement is challenged and high aspirations are encouraged amongst looked after children attending our school.

The school is committed to support the role of the Local Authority Virtual School Head in promoting the education and achievement of looked after children as outlined in the Children and Families Act 2014.

## **COMMITMENT**

The Governing Body and school staff are committed to improving the life chances for looked after children by ensuring that:

- The Governing Body and the school staff are fully aware of the issues affecting looked after children and the legislation and statutory guidance underpinning the work to improve academic achievement
- The school adopts a Policy for the Education of Looked After children which is disseminated to all staff and regularly reviewed
- The Governing Body ensures that all staff within the school have received training on the needs of looked after children
- A Designated Teacher for looked after children is identified within the school and provided with the resources and time to ensure each looked after child achieves stability and success in accordance with the duties specified in statutory guidance
- A Designated Governor is nominated to monitor the work of the school in supporting its looked after children as part of a larger group of vulnerable children
- The confidentiality policy of the school protects looked after children and ensures that there is controlled and appropriate sharing of information.
- The school ensures inclusion of looked after children by ensuring its policies are non-discriminatory and take into account the additional issues affecting looked after children and other vulnerable groups
- The school recognises the benefit that a stable education placement brings for each looked after child and will:

- Prioritise school places for Looked After Children
  - Will consider alternatives to fixed term exclusion
  - Will make every effort not to permanently exclude a Looked After Child
- The school will facilitate the Personal Education Plan (PEP) process for each looked after child
  - Put in place a PEP that:
    - Is completed and reviewed within statutory timescales
    - Is child/young person centered
    - Allows the child/young person to contribute to the planning of their education and support required
    - Considers the views of each child/young person are heard and used to inform further development of school practice
    - Identifies academic targets in-line with the child's abilities and interests
    - Monitors ongoing progress and additional support required
    - Identifies the use of Pupil Premium and how it will be used to support the educational attainment of the child
  - Outlines how the school will deploy its resources appropriately to support targets being achieved
  - Looked after children will pursue accredited curriculum pathways that are appropriate to their ability and interests
  - Looked after children are encouraged to access out of school hours learning activities realising the positive impact this could have on friendships, self-esteem and achievement
  - The schools will liaise closely with parents/carers and colleagues from the County Durham Children Services to celebrate achievement and discuss concerns
  - The school will liaise closely with the County Durham Virtual School to ensure the child receives further educational support as appropriate
  - The school will contribute to report and provide representation to any reviews held for each looked after child
  - The school will develop strong methods of communication with parents and carers and ensure all appropriate people with parental responsibility receive invitations to school activities and events

## **MONITORING**

The day-to-day monitoring of the implementation of the Policy will be undertaken by the Designated Teacher for looked after children.

The Governing Body will receive a report on the educational performance of Looked After Children and the effectiveness of the role of the designated teacher on an annual basis.

## **DISSEMINATION OF THE POLICY**

The Headteacher and Designated LAC Teacher will be responsible for ensuring all staff are briefed on the regulations and practice outlines in this policy.