

**Children Looked After Policy
November 2016
(Reviewed every three years)**

Who are our Children Looked After?

Children and young people become “Looked After” either if they have been taken into care by the local authority, or have been accommodated by the local authority (a voluntary care arrangement). Most Children Looked After will be living with foster parents but a smaller number may be in children’s residential units, living with a relative or even be placed at home with their birth parents.

The governing body of Avalon school is committed to providing quality education for all its pupils, based on equality of access, opportunity and outcomes. We fully subscribed to the 5 outcomes of Every Child Matters and, therefore, the Government's aim for every child, whatever their background or their circumstances, to have the support they need in order to:

- Be healthy
- Stay safe
- Enjoy and achieve
- Make a positive contribution
- Achieve economic well-being

For Children Looked After it is nationally recognised that there is considerable educational under achievement when compared with their peers and this governing body is committed to implementing the principles and practice as outlined in:

- DfE The Roles & Responsibilities of the Designated Teacher for Looked After Children
- DfE/Dept of Health Guidance on the Education of Children and Young people in Public Care
- Children and Families Act 2014

“The duty to safeguard looked after children, to promote their educational achievements and to ensure they are able to achieve and reach their full potential”

The 2000 Guidance introduced key measures, in order to improve multi-agency coordination and improve educational life chances for Children Looked After. These are Designated Teachers for Children Looked After and the use of a Personal Education Plan for each Child.

The governing body is committed to ensuring that the following roles and responsibilities are carried out effectively to in order to fulfill the school’s duty regarding these pupils.

Date agreed by governors:	Signed by Chair:
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Children Looked After Policy

SCHOOL POLICY FOR CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER – ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Governing Body	Designated Teacher	Whole School Staff
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Ensure that the admission criteria and practice prioritises children looked after according to the DfES Admissions Code of Practice <input type="checkbox"/> Ensure all governors are fully aware of the legal requirements and guidance for Children Looked After <input type="checkbox"/> Ensure there is a designated teacher for Children Looked After <input type="checkbox"/> Liaise with the headteacher, designated teacher, and all other staff to ensure the needs of Children Looked After are met <input type="checkbox"/> Nominate a governor with responsibility for CLA who links with the designated teacher <input type="checkbox"/> Receive regular reports from the designated teacher which should include <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> the number of Children Looked After on roll and the confirmation that they have a Personal Education Plan <input type="checkbox"/> their attendance, compared to other pupils <input type="checkbox"/> their attainment compared to other pupils <input type="checkbox"/> the number of fixed term and permanent exclusions (if any) <input type="checkbox"/> the destinations of pupils who leave the school <input type="checkbox"/> Ensure that the school's policies and procedures give Children Looked After equal access in respect of <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Admission to school <input type="checkbox"/> National Curriculum and examinations both academic and vocational <input type="checkbox"/> Out of school learning and extra curricular activities <input type="checkbox"/> Work experience and careers guidance <input type="checkbox"/> Annually, review the effective implementation of the school policy for Children Looked After 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Be an advocate for Children Looked After <input type="checkbox"/> Attend relevant training for Children Looked After <input type="checkbox"/> Act as the key liaison professional for other agencies and individuals in relation to Children Looked After seeking advice from Somerset's Children Looked After Advisory Teachers when appropriate. <input type="checkbox"/> Ensure that all Children Looked After receive a positive reintegration on entering the school <input type="checkbox"/> Ensure that all Children Looked After are provided with an appropriate Personal Education Plan and that it is completed within 20 days of joining the school or of entering care (see Somerset's Guidance on Personal Education Plans) <input type="checkbox"/> Keep Personal Education Plans <input type="checkbox"/> Convene an urgent multi professional meeting if a Child Looked After is experiencing difficulties or at risk of exclusion. <input type="checkbox"/> Ensure confidentiality on individual children, sharing confidential/personal information on a need to know basis. <input type="checkbox"/> Act as the key advisor for staff and governors on issues relevant to Children Looked After. <input type="checkbox"/> Ensure that care and school liaison is effective including invitations to meetings and other school events <input type="checkbox"/> Actively encourage and promote out of hours learning and extra curricular activities for Children Looked After <input type="checkbox"/> Ensure speedy transfer of information when a Child Looked After transfers into another educational placement. <input type="checkbox"/> Contribute information to CLA reviews when required. <input type="checkbox"/> Provide regular reports to the Governing Body regarding CLA in the school and relevant policy and practice development. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Have high expectations of the educational and personal achievements of Children Looked After <input type="checkbox"/> Positively promote the raising of a Child Looked After's self esteem <input type="checkbox"/> Ensure any Child Looked After is supported sensitively and that confidentiality is maintained <input type="checkbox"/> Be familiar with the Guidance on Children Looked after and respond appropriately to requests for information to support Personal Education Plans, and review meetings <input type="checkbox"/> Respond positively to the request to be a Child Looked After's named person <input type="checkbox"/> Liaise with the designated teachers where a Child Looked After is experiencing difficulties <input type="checkbox"/> Give only official exclusions and only use exclusions as a last resort, in line with Somerset's exclusion advice <input type="checkbox"/> Contribute to regular liaison with social care colleagues and other appropriate professionals <input type="checkbox"/> Keep appropriate records, confidentially as necessary, and make these available to other professionals as appropriate.