



'At Yealmpstone Farm Primary School we promote equality between all people, expressing the Equality Act 2010'

Looked After Children Policy

Looked After children have the right to expect the same outcomes we all want for every child – they should be healthy, stay safe, enjoy and achieve, make a positive contribution to society and achieve economic wellbeing.

Definition

Looked After is a term that refers to children in the care of the Local Authority. This can happen either with parental agreement or when a Court makes a Care Order. The child may be living with foster carers, in a residential unit, with family members, and sometimes with their parents. Yealmpstone Farm School recognises that Looked After Children may have very specific needs.

Yealmpstone Farm's commitment to Looked After Children

The educational achievement of looked after children as a group remains unacceptably low. The Social Exclusion Unit had identified five key reasons why children in care underachieve in education

- too many young people's lives are characterised by instability
- young people in care spend too much time out of school or other place of learning
- children do not have sufficient help with their education if they get behind
- carers are not expected, or equipped, to provide sufficient support and encouragement at home for learning and development
- children in care need more help with their emotional, mental or physical health and wellbeing.

Yealmpstone Farm School is committed to helping every child achieve the highest educational standards he or she possibly can.

Looked After Children are a priority for admission, and Yealmpstone Farm School will follow the LEA's admission criteria. The trained designated teacher for looked after children is Miss Victoria Allen and the governor responsible is Marilyn Atrill.

Action Plan

Yealmpstone Farm School is committed to enhancing the achievement and welfare of Looked After Children. The school will ensure equal access to a broad and balanced education and appoint a named governor for Looked After Children.

An appropriately trained Designated Teacher (Victoria Allen) is appointed whose role and responsibilities will include:

- Act as a resource and advocate for children in care.
- Record and monitor academic progress and attendance and report to the Virtual Schools Team.
- Monitor attendance and exclusions weekly and liaise with EWO/Exclusions Officer as appropriate.

- Maintain Personal Education Plans along with the child's social worker and review as part of the care review process.
- Promote good communication between all those involved in the child's life and ensure staff are aware of all relevant information.
- Liaise pro-actively with the Virtual Schools Team and Social Care Team.
- Take an active interest in the use of the Pupil Premium Plus Funding to support Looked After Children.
- Ensure that a member of staff attends care reviews, whenever possible
- Provide additional support for transition between schools/key stages and liaise with new DT.
- Link with SENCO to ensure any Special Educational Needs are assessed on arrival and met.
- Encourage engagement in school clubs or activities and ensure participation in school trips and curriculum enhancement activities.