

**Plymouth City Council Children's Services School Policy for Children In Care  
(formerly known as Looked After Children ) 30.09.2009 Latest Review 07.2013  
Next Review: October 2016**

**Designated teachers:**

Mark Leader and John Stephens (Headteacher)  
Link Governor, Kerry Libby.

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**

Children in Care 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. Goosewell School recognises that Children in Care may have very specific needs.

**Goosewell School's commitment to Children in Care**

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 out of and in school 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.

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

Children in Care are a priority for admission, and Goosewell School will follow the LA's admission criteria.

**Actions**

Goosewell School is committed to enhancing the achievement and welfare of Children in Care. Goosewell School will ensure equal access to a broad and balanced education and appoint a named governor for Children in Care – Kerry Libby.

An appropriately trained Designated Teacher 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 PLACE 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 PLACE Team and Social Care Team.
- Take an active interest in the use of AEN/PRG Funding to support Children in Care.
- 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.

**We are currently reviewing our Looked After Children Policy. This current policy continues to be followed by all staff until further notice.**