

06 – Safeguarding Children, Young People & Vulnerable Adults Procedures

06.8 – Looked After Children

Our Approach

We warmly welcome and support Looked After Children (LAC) at our setting. These are children who are in the care of the local authority and may be living with foster carers, relatives, or in another form of care placement. Our aim is always to provide stability, emotional security, and consistent care.

Who Is a Looked After Child?

A child is considered *Looked After* if they are:

- In public care
- Living with foster carers
- Living with relatives under a care order
- Living in a residential home
- Placed back with parents under the supervision of the local authority

Children Under 2 Years Old

- We do not normally offer places to *new* babies or children under the age of 2 who are Looked After.
- However, we *can* support them through stay-and-play style sessions where a carer stays with the child.
- If a child is already attending and has a secure bond with their key person, we will continue their place to maintain stability.

Two-Year-Olds

- We do offer places to two-year-old Looked After children.
- Placements normally last at least three months to ensure consistency.
- If the child already attends the setting and has a secure attachment with their key person, their place will continue.

Three- and Four-Year-Olds

- We offer places for funded 3- and 4-year-old Looked After children.
- These placements normally last at least six weeks.
- If a child who already attends becomes Looked After, their place will continue so that they keep familiar routines and relationships.

Extra Support for Looked After Children

We work closely with everyone involved in the child's care.

✓ The Designated Safeguarding Lead and the child's key person:

- Liaise with social workers, carers, and other professionals
- Gather and share essential information appropriately
- Ensure the child's emotional and developmental needs are met

Planning for the Child's Care and Education

At the start of placement, we arrange a meeting with all professionals involved.

For children aged 3 and over:

- A Personal Education Plan (PEP) is created within 10 days of the child becoming Looked After.

We also complete:

- Care Plan for Looked After Children (Form 6.8a)
- This is reviewed at:
 - 2 weeks
 - 6 weeks
 - 3 months
 - Then every 3–6 months

Ongoing Communication

We maintain regular contact with the child's social worker.

This includes:

- Planned review meetings
- Updates for the PEP (reviewed yearly)



- Sharing relevant information to support the child's wellbeing, learning and development