

Looked After Children Policy

This document which applies to the whole college inclusive of boarding is publicly available on the college website and upon request a copy (which can be made available in large print or other accessible format if required) may be obtained from the college office.

Availability and Scope

This policy is publicly available on the College website and can be provided in accessible formats upon request. It applies to all staff, volunteers, contractors, and those providing services on behalf of the College. The policy is effective at all times, including during off-site activities and outside normal College hours.

All staff share responsibility for understanding and implementing this policy. The policy is reviewed annually, or sooner where statutory guidance, regulatory requirements, or College arrangements change.

Reviewed: January 2026

Next Review: January 2027

Signed

David Game
Founder

John Dalton
Principal

Statutory and Regulatory Context

This policy reflects the College's duties under the Children Acts 1989 and 2004, the Children and Families Act 2014, statutory guidance on *Promoting the Education of Looked After Children* and the *Role of the Designated Teacher for Looked After Children, Keeping Children Safe in Education*, and the Independent School Standards Regulations, particularly Parts 3 and 8.

For the purposes of this policy, Looked After Children are defined as children who are in the care of, or accommodated by, a local authority.

Statement of Duty

The College recognises that Looked After Children are a particularly vulnerable group and has a statutory duty to safeguard and promote their welfare and educational achievement. The College is committed to ensuring stability, inclusion, high expectations, and appropriate support so that Looked After Children are able to achieve their full potential.

College Responsibilities

The College ensures that a Designated Teacher for Looked After Children is appointed and that effective systems are in place to support each child's education and wellbeing. The College works in partnership with local authorities, Virtual School Heads, social workers, carers, and other relevant agencies. It contributes to, implements, and reviews Personal Education Plans (PEPs) at least termly, monitors attendance, progress, behaviour, and wellbeing, and intervenes promptly where concerns arise.

The College promotes participation of Looked After Children in the full academic and co-curricular life of the College and supports access to examinations, enrichment opportunities, careers guidance, and transition planning. Information relating to care status is handled sensitively and shared strictly on a need-to-know basis.

Designated Teacher for Looked After Children

The Designated Teacher acts as the central point of contact for Looked After Children within the College and maintains oversight of PEP targets and educational progress. The Designated Teacher advocates for the educational needs of Looked After Children, ensures staff understand the impact of care experience, including trauma and attachment, and liaises with external agencies and contributes to reviews as required.

Designated Teacher for Looked After Children: Ms Nedaa Belal

Safeguarding and Wellbeing

Looked After Children are recognised as a high-vulnerability group within the College's safeguarding framework. All safeguarding procedures apply in full, with particular attention given to emotional wellbeing, mental health, attendance, and stability. Staff receive appropriate training to understand the impact of care experience on learning, behaviour, and relationships.

Senior Leadership Team Responsibilities

The Senior Leadership Team holds responsibility for the operational oversight of this policy. The SLT ensures that statutory duties in relation to Looked After Children are understood and implemented, supports and challenges the Designated Teacher, and monitors attendance, progress, behaviour, exclusions, and wellbeing. The SLT ensures appropriate staff training, escalates concerns promptly where risks are identified, and maintains effective liaison with external agencies.

This oversight ensures that support for Looked After Children is embedded consistently across the College and not reliant on individual practice.

Proprietor Oversight

The Proprietor and the Proprietor's Agent hold strategic responsibility for ensuring that statutory and ISSR requirements are met, appropriate systems and roles are in place, and leadership oversight is effective. The Proprietor does not manage individual cases but provides governance oversight, assurance, and accountability.

Proprietor with responsibility for Looked After Children: Mr David Game

Senior Leadership Oversight: Mr Remi Ferguson, Mr John Dalton, Ms Nedaa Belal, Ms Anne Lewis

Review and Monitoring

This policy is reviewed annually. Monitoring includes consideration of attendance, progress and attainment, exclusions, and post-College destinations. Findings inform leadership review and continuous improvement.

Linked Policies

This policy should be read alongside the College's Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy, Behaviour Policy, SEND Policy, Attendance Policy, and Pastoral Care Policy.