



Disadvantaged Learners Policy



Written By	R. Eldred	Approved By	Governors
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Review Cycle	Reviewed and approved by the full governing board annually.		

Designated Staff:

- Designated Teacher: Rebecca Eldred
- Designated Governor: Claire Hitt
- Person responsible for Pupil Premium Grant Allocation: Rebecca Eldred

Introduction

Bowlsh Infant School is committed to providing the best educational experience within our means. Grants for disadvantaged pupils are spent to strategically plan to support those vulnerable children in specifically identified ways. In supporting Disadvantaged Learners, we aim to provide an educational experience that is equitable, enabling access and empowering the learning. We have a particular focus on closing the gap between disadvantage learners and advantaged learners by being proactive in our approach to our provision for disadvantaged learners.

Our approach for all disadvantaged learners is based on the following principles:

- Quality First Teaching
- Promoting inclusion and attendance
- High expectations
- Early intervention
- Promoting children's voice, health and wellbeing
- Reducing suspensions and exclusions
- Working in partnerships with carers, agencies and professionals

Nationally Looked After Children (LAC) significantly underachieve and are at greater risk of exclusion when compared with their peers. Schools have a major part to play in ensuring that LAC and PLAC are enabled to be healthy, stay safe, enjoy, achieve, make a positive contribution to society and achieve economic wellbeing.

In partnership with Somerset Council, we have a special duty to safeguard and promote the education of LAC.

Disadvantaged learners include:

- Looked After Children (LAC)
- Previously looked after children (PLAC)
- Pupil Premium and Free School Meals

We also consider the following as disadvantaged learners:

- Children Kinship Care
- There is a separate specific policy for children with SEND.

Looked After Children (LAC)

Who are Looked After Children?

The term "Looked after Child" (LAC) refers to a child who is in the care of the Local Authority. The term has a specific legal meaning based on the Children Act 1989. These children and young people may also be known as a Child in Care, (CIC), although in Somerset, looked after children request is known as Children Looked After to avoid the so-called LAC abbreviation.

Children can become looked after at any age from birth up to their 18th birthday.

Under the Children Act 1989, a child is Looked After by a Local Authority if he or she falls into one of the following:

- is provided with accommodation, for a continuous period of more than 24 hours (Children Act 1989, Sections 20 and 21)
- is subject to a care order (Children Act 1989, Part IV), or is subject to a placement order.

They may have been placed in care voluntarily by parents struggling to cope, or by Children's Social Care who may have intervened because they were identified as being at significant risk of harm, neglect, or exploitation.

A child will cease being Looked After by the Local Authority when they are adopted, return home, or reach the age of 18 years.

LAC Reviews involving the school will take place up until an adoption order has been granted.

LAC children are automatically granted Pupil Premium Plus funding, which will continue for LAC until they are 16 years old.

Information regarding Pupil Premium funding for Previously Looked After Children

For more detail about this aspect of Pupil premium, please refer [Accessing Funding page](#) on the Staff tab of this website where you will find links to the Conditions of Grant 2021-22, and Somerset's Pupil Premium Policy which has a specific section relating to the funding allocated to some Previously Looked After Children.

For pupils who are looked-after children, funding should be managed by the local authority's virtual school head (VSH) in consultation with the child's school.

Children who are Looked After may be living:

- with foster parents
- at home with their parents under the supervision of Children's Social Care
- in residential children's homes
- in other residential settings, for example schools or secure units.
- away from home on a planned basis for short breaks or respite care
- with supported lodging carer's if aged 16 years or older
- in semi-independent accommodation if aged 16 years or older
- in independent accommodation if aged 16 years or older

Previously Looked After Children (PLAC)

Who are Previously Looked After Children?

The term Previously Looked After Children are children who were once LAC but have now been adopted.

The Virtual School

Key Action points:

- Children Previously Looked After may be adopted, subject to a Special Guardianship (SGO) or Child Arrangement Order (CAO). The Virtual School can support the education of these children/young people through the provision of advice and guidance. Contact can be made via PLACInclusionSomerset@somerset.gov.uk or directly with the Virtual School Advisory Teacher linked to the child's school.
- Children Previously Looked After do not require a Personal Education Plan (PEP) but it can be useful to bring together school, parents/carers and Children's Social Care to plan to support Children Previously Looked After and there is a document to scaffold this meeting (Education Plan for Previously Looked After Children Key Stages 1 – 4 including Reception) available to download from our website www.somersetvirtualschool.co.uk. The Virtual School would not routinely attend these meetings but could provide advice and guidance before or after the meeting.
- All education settings are required to have a Designated Teacher (DT) in place who must maintain an overview of the Previously Looked After cohort as well as any Children Looked After on roll at the school. This DT should be the first point of contact for school-based enquiries about Children Previously Looked After and would usually be the member of school staff to support an education planning meeting.
- Pupil Premium Grant for Children Previously Looked After is managed completely separately from the PPG for CLA. It is not managed by the Virtual School. Post LAC pupil premium funding is only available for those children and young people who were in care in England or Wales immediately prior to the adoption/SG/CA order being granted. This must be declared on the school census and on this basis the funding will be released directly to the school. A guidance document (Pupil Premium and children adopted from care or who have left care in Somerset) is available on our website at www.somersetvirtualschool.co.uk
- Schools should be aware that Children Previously Looked After may well experience many of the same issues as CLA and will need thoughtful support and encouragement. Successful adoption or moving into a SGO/CAO will not erase earlier experiences which may communicate themselves in behaviours at school.

Education Plan for Previously Looked After Children

Although not statutory like the Personal Education Plan is for Children Looked After, Somerset Virtual School offers a pro forma to scaffold an education planning meeting for Previously Looked After Children, the EPPLAC. This document is not part of the ePEP system. The Virtual school does not monitor or quality assure these plans, but they are often helpful in mapping the situation and identifying possible ways forward where there are educational issues for a child or young person who has been in local authority care, or subject to a Child Arrangement or Special Guardianship Order.

Pupil Premium and Pupil Premium+

The Pupil Premium Grant is identified as a separate cost centre. The Pupil Premium Strategy is created/updated and published on the school website annually. This Strategy outlines how the following areas are funded:

- High Quality Teaching
- Targeting Academic Support
- Wider Strategies

Research from the EEF is used to influence decisions as well as knowledge of our children and their specific needs.

Pupil premium funding is allocated to eligible schools based on the number of:

- pupils who are recorded as eligible for free school meals or have been recorded as eligible in the past 6 years (referred to as Ever 6 FSM).
- children previously looked after by a local authority or other state care, including children adopted from state care or equivalent from outside England and Wales.

Pupil premium is not a personal budget for individual pupils, and schools do not have to spend pupil premium so that it solely benefits pupils who meet the funding criteria. It can be used:

- to support other pupils with identified needs, such as those who have or have had a social worker, or who act as a carer.
- for whole class interventions which will also benefit non-disadvantaged pupils.

Details of the funding criteria for SPP is outlined in the [Service pupil premium](#) section on the .gov website.

Responsibilities

Designated Teacher for LAC and PLAC

The role of the DT became statutory in Sept 2009 under the Children and Young Persons' Act 2008. The DT must be qualified teacher; ideally, a senior member of staff so they are able to influence school decisions.

Designated Teacher Responsibilities

- Knowing the LAC and PLAC children in school.
- Ensuring smooth transitions.
- Monitoring development and progress and being the key person who does this.
- Attending relevant training and acting as the key person for liaison.
- Helping school staff understand the issues of LAC and PLAC.
- Lead on, create, communicate, monitor progress and update PEPs.
- Producing an annual report for LAC children.

Staff Responsibilities:

- Teachers and Teaching Assistants are expected to know which children in their class are eligible for PP/PP+.

Headteacher Responsibilities

- To monitor and report achievement of disadvantaged learners.
- Annual review and planning of PP spending.
- Report to governors on the above.
- Ensure the website has all required information regarding disadvantaged learners.

Governor Responsibilities

- Nominate a DT for LAC and PLAC and ensure they are trained appropriately to carry out the role.
- Nominate a DG to ensure the needs of LAC and PLAC are considered at a school management level.
- Support the LA in its statutory duty to promote the educational achievement of LAC.
- With the HT monitor how effectively the role is working.
- Receive, approve, and understand Pupil Premium grant planning, spending and impact.

Appendices and Supporting Documents

Appendix 1

Inclusion Somerset

Somerset Virtual School

Education Plan for Previously Looked After Children

GUIDANCE



Education Plans for Previously Looked After Children (EPPLAC)	
What is an EPPLAC?	The EPPLAC (Education Plan for Previously Looked After Children) is a tool to support schools and parents in securing and promoting the education and well-being of Previously Looked After Children. This document provides a format for an education planning meeting in order to identify strengths and needs and to plan a programme of support for the child. The EPPLAC can only be completed with the consent of the parents/carers. A copy of the EPPLAC can be found here Schools – Somerset Virtual School
Who is the EPPLAC for?	The EPPLAC is for any child or young person who has been previously looked after and has subsequently been adopted or made the subject of a special guardianship or child arrangement order. The EPPLAC can be used for any child or young person who falls into this category. There is no statutory requirement to complete an EPPLAC and it can only be completed with the consent of the parents/carers.
Do I need parental consent to complete an EPPLAC?	Yes you can only complete the EPPLAC with the consent of the parent/carer. As a young person grows older ideally they should be involved in any decision making around consent.
Who completes the EPPLAC?	The EPPLAC should be completed by the Designated Teacher with the support of those who know the child well and where appropriate the child themselves.
Who should attend the EPPLAC meeting?	The meeting should be attended by anyone who may be able to support the child and where appropriate the child's voice should form part of the meeting (either in person or having been previously sought by a trusted adult).
Can the child/young person's views be captured differently?	Yes, please consider how to involve them in the meeting and how best to capture their views. Ideally this is done prior to the meeting and then shared at the meeting.
How often should an EPPLAC be completed?	There is no specified frequency for completing EPPLACs, however we recommend completing them at least annually. They can be completed more frequently depending on the needs identified. We would also recommend completing an EPPLAC when a child is due to transition to a new school to support the receiving school to gain a good understanding of the child.
Who should receive a copy of the EPPLAC?	Everyone in attendance at the meeting should receive a copy of the EPPLAC and anyone else who is involved with the Child/Young Person and the family who may be able to support working towards the outcomes agreed. A copy of the EPPLAC should also be set to the PLAC mailbox placinclusionsomerset@somerset.gov.uk

Appendix 2

Education Plan for Previously Looked After Children

Inclusion Somerset

Somerset Virtual School

REVIEW



For voluntary completion by parents and schools with the participation of young people wherever possible.

Name of CYP	
Date of this review meeting	
Chair-person of this meeting (who will take and send the minutes)	

ATTENDING THIS MEETING

Invitation List (Role and Name)	Attended Y/N	Contact email address	Copy of minutes required?
CYP			
Designated Teacher			
SENCO			
Parent/Carer			
VS&LST Advisory Teacher	No	PLACInclusionSomerset@somerset.gov.uk	Yes

Significant changes/events since last meeting

Review of actions from last meeting

Agree whether each outcome has been achieved, is ongoing or needs to be amended and record in table below.

Outcome from Last Meeting	Comment	Achieved Ongoing Amend	Next Steps

NEW OR AMENDED OUTCOMES

Need	Outcome	Provision	Lead person	Completion Date

FUNDING FOR PREVIOUSLY LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN

Pupil Premium Funding can be claimed for children previously looked after from Local Authority Care by schools who declare these children on their annual census. This Pupil Premium funding is separate from the PPG for CLA which is managed by Somerset's Virtual School. The money for Previously Looked After Children is paid directly to

schools by the Department for Education and Headteachers can decide how best to use this money to support their pupils. This pupil premium is not a personal allowance but should be used in such a way that learning and progress are supported for vulnerable groups.

The Adoption Support Fund exists to support not only adopted children but also those subject to Special Guardianship, where the young person was looked after immediately prior to the arrangement. Funding is accessed based on an assessment, is subject to a fair access limit, and is limited to therapies that the DfE determine as being in scope and must be delivered by an approved provider. Further details can be found here - <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/adoption-support-fund-asf>

Based on the conversations at this planning meeting, is there any additional provision needed to support the child or young person?	
What additional provision/resource is being sought?	
Is it clear that this request <ul style="list-style-type: none"> will improve educational outcomes in the classroom, is not related to activities that the school should be funding through its SEND budget 	
What are the anticipated costs?	
Should a request be made- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> to the headteacher for Pupil Premium Grant or for an assessment to access the Post Adoption Fund? 	
Who will take responsibility for making this request and by when?	

Action Needed	Lead Person	Completion date
Feedback to the CYP to make sure that they are appropriately involved		

Date of next review: