

Children Looked After Policy (CLA)

January 2025

Introduction

Worcester Sixth Form College is an inclusive college and supports all vulnerable learners to enhance their experience, development and progression opportunities. The College believes in opportunities for all and constantly strives to remove barriers for learners who have learning difficulties and/or disabilities, or been subject to negative life experiences: social, emotional and educational. The Policy relates specifically to learners who are Looked After (CLA). Worcester Sixth Form has established a strong position from which to fulfil its responsibilities to prepare students to participate fully in education programmes to enable them to maximise their future success.

The College has developed strong relationships with Worcestershire Local Authority and neighbouring Local Authorities. This expresses the commitment in working together. As partners we endeavour to ensure that Young People in care and Care Leavers achieve the best possible outcomes in post 16 education.

This policy supports the engagement, admission support and progression of CLA/CL, whilst developing a consistent approach will provide these learners with an excellent learning experience whilst studying at the College, as well as providing them with skills to succeed in their lifelong learning and wider life experiences.

The College's Designated Teacher for CLA/PCLA is Graham Williams, Senior Leader for Safeguarding & Pastoral Support and DSL.

Colleges Responsibilities

The College's vision for CLA/CL is to provide them with the necessary support and guidance to achieve and progress to higher education, apprenticeships and training as well as becoming prepared for wider life experiences equal to those of their peers.

To enable CLA/CL with equal opportunities there is a need to identify them at the earliest opportunity in order to provide them with an individual tailored experience from pre-entry interviews to enrolling onto courses.

Therefore, the college aims to provide the following support to all CLA/CL:

1. Ensure transition activities such as Open Events, Taster Days and induction sessions are accessible.
2. CLA/CL interviews to be carried out by Designated Safeguarding Lead or Deputy Safeguarding Lead.
3. Where appropriate offer flexible application arrangements and interviews
4. Ensuring early identification through applications process, student required to declare CLA/CL and this point admission to notify Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) and identified designated lead for CLA/CL.
5. Encourage access to FE/HE and include them as specific target group.
6. Ensure information on the full range of support available to CLA students is readily and easily accessible (financial, pastoral and academic)

Our Approach to Best Practice

Transition Support

We offer individual tours of the college where CLA students are able to meet with key members of staff who can offer support at college. This bespoke arrangement is in addition to Open Events held at College and will be discussed at the time of interview.

Financial Support

Students that are in care or care leavers may be eligible for a Bursary of up to £1200. We also provide a travel allowance for bus and/or train, free meals and additional support to help with the cost of trips, course equipment and other resources. For further information please see the financial support page on the website <https://www.wsfc.ac.uk/for-students/financial-support/>

Wellbeing

All students are allocated a personal tutor who they can access weekly if support is required with physical and mental wellbeing. Support can also be offered through the College Counselling Service and Mental Health and Wellbeing Mentor.

Additional learning support

Academic support is available to those students who have either previously received support in school or through teacher referral or self-referral. Support may be offered in the following areas:

- One-to-one support
- In class support (for students with an Education, Health and Care Plan)
- Having an assessment for exam access arrangements - if applicable
- Exam access arrangements

Careers Advice and Guidance

Contact will be made by a careers advisor in students first year with us for a careers appointment to look at options for progression after leaving college. Students are guided and supported through this process throughout duration of studies. Extra individual interviews are also available throughout the week if required. Appointments can be made at a convenient time by visiting Student Services, e-mailing them or speaking personal tutor. Our Careers Advisers can help to make a start with careers ideas and/or check information and guide progress.

Employment Support

Student Services advertise full and part-time employment vacancies and apprenticeships. College offers personalised advice and support on how to write a CV, help with applications and interviews, and short courses for job seeker

Multi Agency Working

To support students with their progress the Designated Lead for CLA/ Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead works with a range of external agencies/professions including Virtual School, Social Workers, Outreach Worker and Personal Advisors to monitor process and identify appropriate support is in place. Personal Pathway Plan (PPP) reviews take place every term lead by the Virtual Schools; feedback is gathered and targets are set by teachers. CLA reviews are also attended by Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead as well as any other multi agency meeting when requested.

How to apply

Applications need to be made online via <https://apply.wsfc.ac.uk/> To enable support to be put in place students are required to declare on their application that they are in care, if an application has already been submitted and disclosure not made contact our admissions team apply@wsfc.ac.uk and they will be able to add this information to the application.

Review of Policy

The policy will be reviewed annually.

Next review in January 2026