



Student Support Policies and Procedures

Policy for students who are in care, care leavers, young carers, refugees or asylum seekers

Aim: This policy describes how college will promote the education of vulnerable young people so they have every opportunity to achieve to their full potential, succeed in learning and progress to higher education or employment with training.

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Policy Author	Head of Student Support



Policy for students who are in care or care leavers

1. Introduction and aims

Under the Children Act 1989, a child is legally defined as 'looked after' by a local authority or 'in care' if he or she is:

- provided with accommodation for a continuous period for more than 24 hours
- subject to a care order; or
- subject to a placement order

Blackpool Sixth believes that, in partnership with the local authority, we have a special duty to safeguard and promote the education of young people in care/care leavers. We aim to provide a safe and secure environment, where students have access to every opportunity to achieve to their full potential, succeed in learning, have high aspirations and progress to higher education or employment with training.

2. Raising aspirations and pre-entry guidance

2.1. The Head of Admissions, Liaison and Marketing will ensure effective links are made with local authorities in order to:

- Have effective data sharing protocols in place with the local authorities to identify young people in care/care leavers or refugees/asylum seekers in year 11.
- Liaise with the local authority to ensure information, advice and guidance about progression to and study options at college are freely available to young people in care/care leavers or refugees/asylum seekers.
- Ensure that school liaison activities offered by the college are accessible to those in care/care leavers - such as taster days, open days, summer schools and that costs are not a barrier to participation.
- Make available information on the specific support available at college, including financial support, to potential students, their carers, and professionals supporting them.

2.2. The Head of Admissions, Liaison and Marketing will develop collaborative links with local schools and Connexions in order to:

- Share information on young people in care/care leavers/young carers or refugees/asylum seekers who are prospective students at college to ensure their support needs are met.
- Offer pre-entry information on support available at college, including financial support.
- Ensure information on support available for young people in care/care leavers/young carers or refugees/asylum seekers is included in school liaison activity with partner high schools.

2.3. The Head of Admissions, Liaison and Marketing will effectively publicise the support the college offers to potential students in care/care leavers or refugees/asylum seekers and people who are supporting them in their education. We will have:

- Easily accessible webpages with specific information on support available and contact details of the staff responsible for supporting young people in care/care leavers/young carers or refugees/asylum seekers .
- Leaflets/brochures promoting the success of young people in care/care leavers and the support available.

3. Application, entry and induction

3.1. The Additional Support Worker (Vulnerable Students) is the designated member of staff who acts as a key point of contact and advisor for young people in care/care leavers/young carers and refugees/asylum seekers to provide additional support during the transition from school to college.

3.2 The contact details for the designated Additional Support Worker (Vulnerable Students) will be easily accessible on the college website and in leaflets/brochures.

3.3 The Head of Student Support will ensure applicants identified as young people in care/care leavers or refugees/asylum seekers have additional transitional arrangements to help them feel comfortable with the college e.g. visit to college, opportunity to shadow a student, place on a summer school etc.

3.4 There will be opportunities for students to identify as being in care/care leavers/young carers or refugees/asylum seekers during application and enrolment. Students will be made aware of the benefits of doing so and that disclosure is confidential.

3.5 The Additional Support Worker (Vulnerable Students) will offer specific help with applying for financial support (e.g. completing bursary application forms).

4. On-programme support

4.1. The Additional Support Worker (Vulnerable Students) will act as a key point of contact and advisor throughout the student's time at college. The Additional Support Worker (Vulnerable Students) will:

- Be a key point of contact for the student and college staff.
- Ensure weekly monitoring of the attendance and progress of young people with care experience takes place and any concerns are responded to quickly.
- Liaise with the local authority, social workers and other appropriate partners to ensure the young person's needs are met.
- Ensure that individuals access additional financial support available (e.g. Bursaries and Hardship Fund).
- Ensure appropriate learning, welfare and emotional support is in place, as required.
- Ensure students are provided with impartial progression guidance (e.g. HE, or progression routes into employment with training), including awareness about additional transition support that is available.

5. Monitoring outcomes and impact

5.1. The Head of Student Support oversees the implementation and monitoring of the commitment to the success of young people in care/care leavers and refugees/asylum seekers

5.2. Data will be collected for this specific cohort on application, at enrolment and on programme.

5.3 The Head of Student Support will ensure processes are in place to measure recruitment, attendance, retention, success and progression for this cohort.

5.4 The Head of Student Support will produce an annual report on the outcomes for students who have been in care/care leavers or refugees/asylum seekers.