



## **Looked After (LAC) and Previously Looked After Children (PLAC) Policy**

For the purposes of this policy a child 'looked after by a local authority' (LAC) is one who is looked after within the meaning of section 22 of the Children Act 1989.

A previously looked after child (PLAC) is one who is no longer looked after in England and Wales because s/he is the subject of an adoption, special guardianship or child arrangement order which includes arrangements relating to with whom the child is to live, or when the child is to live with any person or has been adopted from 'state care' outside England and Wales. A child is in 'state care' outside of England and Wales if s/he is in care of or accommodated by a public authority, a religious organisation, or any other organisation the sole or main purpose of which is to benefit society.

Fields of Dreams treats each student as a unique individual who present to us with unique needs. We also recognise that 'Looked After Children' and 'Previously Looked After Children' may have very specific needs and may be coping with trauma, abuse or rejection, and are likely to experience personal distress and uncertainty.

Fields of Dreams recognises that LAC and PLAC can experience specific and significant disadvantages and are committed to ensuring they reach their potential in all areas that we can help support.

We are aware that LAC and PLAC may experience feelings of not fitting in and being different from their peers due to their circumstances. We are committed to providing an accepting and respectful environment and this is supported by our student expectations, Behaviour Policy and Safeguarding Policy. We are committed to protecting ALL children from harm including emotional distress no matter what their circumstances and have a zero tolerance to students singling out others based upon their circumstances. We encourage and empower the child's voice so are always open to children being honest about their feelings especially if they are experiencing any kind of bullying or discrimination.

Fields of Dreams are committed to enhancing the achievement and welfare of LAC and PLAC in the following ways:

- Having high expectations for the child.
- Ensuring equal access to programmes of learning and development.
- Being committed to improving their health and wellbeing.
- Supporting student to promote stability and continuity.
- Providing opportunities to be independent.
- Providing identified support as and when needed.
- Promoting inclusion through challenging and changing attitudes.

- Collaborating and sharing of information with all those involved in the child's life.
- Maintaining and respecting the child's confidentiality wherever possible (unless a safeguarding concern is identified).
- Providing staff with awareness of, and sensitivity to the additional challenges LAC/PLAC may experience.
- Promote the self-esteem of all LAC and PLAC.
- Following the Safeguarding Policy to protect all LAC /PLAC children.

Kerry Fisher – Education, Training & Creative Director  
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