

St. Joseph's



Murton

Personal Education Allowance (PEAs) for Looked After Children

Policy and procedures



PERSONAL EDUCATION ALLOWANCE (PEAs) for Looked After Children

Policy and Procedures

Introduction

1. The white paper Care Matters: Time for Change published in June 2007 confirmed the Government's commitment to introduce an annual Personal Education Allowance (PEA) for all looked after children of statutory school age who are at risk of not reaching the national standards of attainment. They are intended to help local authorities support the wide range of learning needs of looked after children and give them access to additional learning and development activities.
2. The aim of the PEA is to prevent looked after children falling behind other children in their education or if they are already behind, to help them catch up. Support should be provided at the earliest opportunity for children who are at risk of not achieving the expected national standards.
3. Funding for Personal Education Allowances comprises part of the Local Authority Area Based Grant and provides £500 per annum for each looked after child who has been identified as eligible for support.

Eligibility for Support

4. As part of the duty to promote the educational achievement of looked after children the local authority will provide personal education allowances for all looked after children who are at risk of not reaching the national standards of attainment which are:
 - ☐ Level 2 in reading, writing and mathematics in KS1
 - ☐ Level 4 in English and Mathematics in KS2
 - ☐ Level 5 in English and mathematics at KS3
 - ☐ Five A*-C GCSE s including English and Maths or equivalent
5. However support should not be focused solely on children who are not reaching particular attainment thresholds. All children are expected to progress at least 2 national curriculum levels in English and Mathematics between each key Stage from the age of 7 (in KS1 most children are expected to progress at least 1 level depending on their starting point).
6. All authorities are required to pay particular attention to the needs of particularly vulnerable children including children who have:
 - ☐ Recently become looked after
 - ☐ Have experienced repeated episodes of care

- ☐ Are placed out of authority
- ☐ Are in residential children's homes
- ☐ Have moved school mid year or have experienced multiple school moves
- ☐ Are not in mainstream education or have experienced periods of no education provision
- ☐ Have additional learning needs or SEN (although the PEA must not be used to replace the support provided through school action, school action plus or a statement of special educational needs).

7. Looked after children should receive the additional support via a PEA on an ongoing basis for each year they are at risk of not reaching expected standards of attainment.

PEAs and the Personal Education Planning Process

8. All looked after children of school age should have a Personal Education Plan (PEP). The PEP should identify the child's educational and developmental needs and contain personalised short and long term targets.
9. The allocation of the PEA must link with the identified needs within the PEP.

Approved use of PEA funding

10. When considering an application for PEA funding, the adults involved in the PEP process should think holistically about the needs of the child and the barriers they may face to achieving their academic potential.
11. The choice of activity/support should be linked to the education objectives set out in the child's PEP.
12. Examples of activities that the PEA might be used to support include:
 - ☐ Additional one to one tuition to support their learning
 - ☐ Out of school learning and development that will build the child's self esteem and confidence
 - ☐ Additional personalised educational trips and visits that are not organised by the school or other education provider as part of the curriculum.
 - ☐ Learning resources that the local authority does not expect to be covered by the fostering allowance or children's home fees.
 - ☐ Wider activities that will benefit the child's learning and development
 - ☐ Additional support for vocational training
13. PEAs must **not** be used to replace support and interventions that should normally be provided by schools, the local authority and statutory agencies including:

19. The value of the PEA is not expected to exceed £500 per year although the actual value will depend on the nature of the activity to be supported.

20. All applications will be considered by the Maximising Attainment Managers and will be signed off by the Access Service Manager.

March 2009

Designated teacher for LAC : Miss J. Jones

Designated Governor for LAC: Miss E. Matterson

Signatures:

Headteacher: Date:

Chair of Governors: Date: