

THE EDUCATION SERVICE

Horizon Care provides its own education service (Horizon Care School Registration Numbers 860/6032 and 351/6015) to ensure that all young people placed with the agency, regardless of their previous educational experiences, not only attend school, but also realise the highest possible levels of educational attainment. The education programme is delivered by qualified teachers working in partnership with residential care workers.

KEY PRINCIPLES

We believe the educational needs of looked-after children and children in need should be met within mainstream educational services and, except on rare occasions, complex personal difficulties faced by individual children should not be used to justify or explain low levels of educational attainment. Children and young people facing extreme levels of difficulty can and should be successfully educated within mainstream provisions in ways which not only meet their individual requirements but also reflect the specific context in which schools and other appropriate education services operate.

Horizon Care schools offer the following:

- Complete educational assessments and background education report. There will be a representative from the school at the initial planning meetings of a looked-after child coming to Horizon Care.
- Assumption of lead responsibility for planning, support and delivery of education programmes for children.
- Intensive preparation and research relating to each new school placement and completion of the inclusion plan.
- Arrangement interim support to ensure attendance by the young person at mainstream or other appropriate school or education institute.
- Direct handling of all matters relating to education such as admissions, individual plans, school induction programmes, curriculum management, examinations and assessment, homework etc.
- In the event of an unavoidable break in school attendance (eg temporary exclusion, permanent exclusion), a focus on facilitating the earliest possible re-admission and minimising the impact of such a break on the young person, residential staff and placement. This may involve organising some extra-curricular activities in consultation with residential staff, or other such arrangements as best support the placement.
- Assistance to local authorities in ensuring that the aims and objectives of individual care plans are met, both within the duration of their placement and as part of the process of moving children to other placements, including to their own family where appropriate.





HOME/SCHOOL AGREEMENT

The school will treat the home as just that – a home with guardians as any mainstream school would treat home. However, where communication is rare between mainstream schools and homes, ours will be more thorough due to the nature of our children's difficulties.

Although there is no school uniform, it is expected that students do not wear jeans, except on 'activity days'. Smart casual dress is expected for both staff and students.

We do not allow children to smoke in school. Anyone acting as a teaching assistant is expected not to allow a student to smoke in their presence, and the student they are responsible for should always be in their view.

We do not accept that children need their mobile phones in school. The schools have phones and therefore mobile phones are not required and can cause unnecessary interruptions to teaching.

We have a home/school record book which is passed only between teaching staff and residential staff. Positive

records will be rewarded at home and a negative report can expect to lead to consequences being highlighted at home. This is also a helpful way of communicating any issues that the home or school is experiencing with an individual. The school operates a reward points system. Points can be earned and lost.

The homes provide a healthy lunch which is brought into school by the student, or staff, when necessary.

A timetable will be sent home so that the home is aware of when PE kit is needed and of any other incidentals that may be required on a certain day.

It is expected that our students bring a bag to school containing their own pencil case that they can get used to taking responsibility for their education. Students must respect school equipment and follow staff instructions. Bullying and inappropriate language are not allowed.

The school will usually cover the cost of most activity days but, on some occasions, the home will be asked to contribute towards expenses. Such requests are made by letter, as would normally happen in mainstream school.