

Protocol for a 'Requires Improvement' School place

In arranging a school placement the child's social worker (working with the VSH and other local authority staff, where appropriate) should seek a school or other education setting that is best suited to the child's needs. That could be a selective, non-selective, maintained or independent, boarding, day or alternative provision.

The following principles should apply:

- Educational provision should mean a full-time place
- Schools judged by Ofsted to be 'good' or 'outstanding' should be prioritised for looked after children in need of a new school. **Unless there are exceptional evidence-based reasons, looked after children should never be placed in a school judged by Ofsted to be 'inadequate'**
- The choice of the education setting should be based on what any good parent would want for their child. It should be based on evidence that the setting can meet the educational needs of the child and help them make the maximum progress
- The child's wishes and feelings should be taken into account and the suitability of the education setting tested by arranging an informal visit with the child. Where a looked-after child would benefit from attending a boarding school, either in the state or independent sector, VSHs and social workers should be proactive in considering this option. This decision is usually based on the care placement needs of the child and the boarding school's ability to meet these needs
- The VSH should ensure that social workers, IROs, admission officers for the schools maintained by the local authority and Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) departments understand and comply with the requirements in:
 - The School Admissions Code about the priority admission arrangements for looked after children to maintained schools and academies
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/school-admissions-code>
 - Statutory guidance on school exclusion:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/school-exclusion>
 - The special educational needs and disability code of practice 0 to 25 years:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/send-code-of-practice-0-to-25>

(Source - 'Promoting the education of looked after children; Statutory guidance for local authorities'
(https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/335964/Promoting_the_educational_acievement_of_looked_after_children_Final_23-....pdf)

If you are looking to move a child in care to a new school which is judged 'requires improvement' by Ofsted, please complete the below form fully.

It MUST be agreed and signed off by the Virtual School Head

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<p style="text-align: center;">*This form MUST be filled out completely, agreed and signed off by the Virtual School Head *</p>			
Date of form:			
Name of Young Person:		Year Group:	
Current School:		Proposed school move to:	
Reasons for application to the 'RI' School:			
<p> </p> <p> </p> <p> </p>			
Young person's view:	Carer's view:		
Current School's view (if applicable):	SEN Casework view (if child has an EHCP)		
Social worker's view:	Parents view:		
Virtual School's case-holder view:			
<p> </p> <p> </p> <p> </p>			
Decision and reasons by VSH			
<p>Agreed <input type="checkbox"/> / Denied <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Reasons:</p> <p> </p> <p> </p>			
Signed: (VSH)			
<p><i>Jane Featherstone</i></p>			