

Looked After Children & Young People - Education

Do you have to go to school?

All children and young people under 16 have to receive education and this normally means at school.

Which school do you have to attend?

Your social worker should discuss with your parents and you which school you should attend.

What if you want to change school?

- This should be discussed with your social worker and your parents.
- Your Review meeting would be a good opportunity to discuss this.
- If it is agreed that you can change school then your social worker will have to apply for you to attend a different school.
- It is up to that school to decide whether they can offer you a place or not.
- If a school refuses to offer you a place, your social worker can ask the Local Education Authority to review that decision.

What punishments can teachers give you at school?

- You can be placed in detention.
- You cannot be hit.
- If you have a mobile phone, it can be taken away but should be given back for out of school use.

Can teachers use any physical force on you?

They can only use reasonable force to restrain you if necessary for example if they think that you are going to hurt yourself or someone else.

Can you be excluded from school?

- Yes, but only as a last resort. If the school thinks you have behaved badly it should try other types of discipline first.
- If you are excluded it should be for no more than 14 days, unless you are permanently excluded, and you should be told the reasons and when you will be allowed to return to school.

What if you think the exclusion is unfair?

You should discuss this with your foster carers or key worker and/or your social worker. Your social worker may agree with you and decide to ask the school to reconsider the exclusion. This is called an Appeal.

Can you be expelled from school?

- Yes. Any pupil can be permanently expelled from school.
- If you are expelled, you and your social worker will be told of your right to appeal against this decision, and you and your social worker can prepare an appeal.
- Your parents may also have the right to appeal.
- If your appeal is unsuccessful, you still have a right to an education, so another school will be found for you.
- While your social worker is looking for another school, you may be placed in a Pupil Referral Unit or receive education from a home tutor.

What can you do if you are being bullied at school?

- This is a very serious issue that your school should investigate properly.
- You should speak to your social worker or teacher.
- Don't keep the problem to yourself - if you can't talk to a teacher or anyone you know, you could ring Childline.

What if you want to go to Sixth Form College?

- You should approach your careers officer or form tutor in Year 11 to find out what courses are offered in the colleges in your area.
- A written application is required.
- Your social worker can help you complete this form.