

[LAC/CIN FAQs](#)

When is boarding school a suitable provision for Looked After Children or a Child identified by Local Authorities as being in need (LAC or CIN)?

There can be a variety of circumstances when a boarding school will provide an effective element of the care plan for a looked after child or child identified as being 'in need'. It can be particularly effective to support the placement of a young person placed with a parent under a care order or to support placements with other family members who are more suited to provide a home during the school holidays. In many cases, a boarding school placement for a child who is looked after or identified as being 'in need' can lead to removal of care status with the child and family being supported under less intrusive long-term arrangements.

What pastoral and academic support is provided by boarding schools to enable the Looked After Child or the Child identified by Local Authorities as being in need to thrive?

By their very essence, the staff at boarding schools are used to working with children and young people whose lives are characterised by needing to live apart from families. Boarding schools have well developed systems to support young people both pastorally and academically.

Does a child have to be academically gifted to gain a place at a boarding school?

Some schools are academically selective, and many are not. There are boarding schools suited to every level and type of academic need.

Are there any differences in how independent and state boarding schools support Looked After Children or a Child identified by Local Authorities as being in need?

Essentially, there are no real differences other than in how the schools are funded.

Can a Looked After Child or a Child identified by Local Authorities as being in need with an Education and Health Care Plan (EHCP) be supported under this scheme?

Generally speaking, children whose educational and health needs require an EHCP will have those needs fully met in either a day school or a specialist residential school under the plan. It is possible, however, for the children's social care department within each authority to request support for a child with an EHCP. If a suitable school can be found which meets the education and health needs, then we will support the Local Authority.

How much does boarding school cost the Local Authority?

Some of our schools provide fully funded placements and so there may be no cost to the Local Authority. For the majority of placements, however, we will work to broker transparent co-financing arrangements. As a broad rule of thumb, most of our schools will provide at least a 60% fee remission, which depending on the school can leave a shortfall of anything between £5,000 and £15,000 p/a that we will work with Local Authorities to make the case for funding (e.g. from within the associated savings on foster care). We can supplement some placements with a small grant contribution from fundraised income (up to a maximum of £5,000 per pupil p/a) but this will depend on the specific circumstances facing the child, his/her care order status and package, and the match to the most suitable school. Fully-funded placements cannot be requested by the Local Authority.



How do we match Looked After Children or a Child identified by Local Authorities as being in need with the school best suited to their needs?

All of our schools (the map of which can be found in the Schools section of our site) are part of a network of 'accredited' or quality assured schools. Each have a history of enabling vulnerable children to thrive and/or a strong pastoral system that will allow them to adapt to the needs of Looked After and vulnerable children. They have in place 'RNCSF representatives' who are provided with CPD opportunities, e.g. in attachment and trauma based practices; and who act as focal points for discussions with all agencies involved in the child's care, for example participating in all PEP discussions.

The choice of which school would best suit a particular child will depend on the child's academic, pastoral and co-curricular needs and interests. With more than 100 schools across our network we have developed an expertise and footprint to identify which school provides the best environment and has the resources (both financial and in staffing) to meet the needs of individual children, matched on a case-by-case basis.