

Inspection Top Tips

Promoting Education Outcomes

February 2026



Children's Homes Regulations



(1) The education standard is that children make measurable progress towards achieving their educational potential and are helped to do so.

(2) In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to ensure -

(a) that staff -

(vii) raise any need for further assessment or specialist provision in relation to a child with the child's education or training provider and the child's placing authority;



Regulation 8



Children's Homes Guide

5.5 Local authorities have a duty under section 22(3A) of the Children Act 1989 to promote the educational achievement of their looked-after children, which includes, as set out in guidance, seeking a school or other education setting that is best suited to the child's needs. The local authorities' responsibilities as corporate parent apply wherever the child is placed.

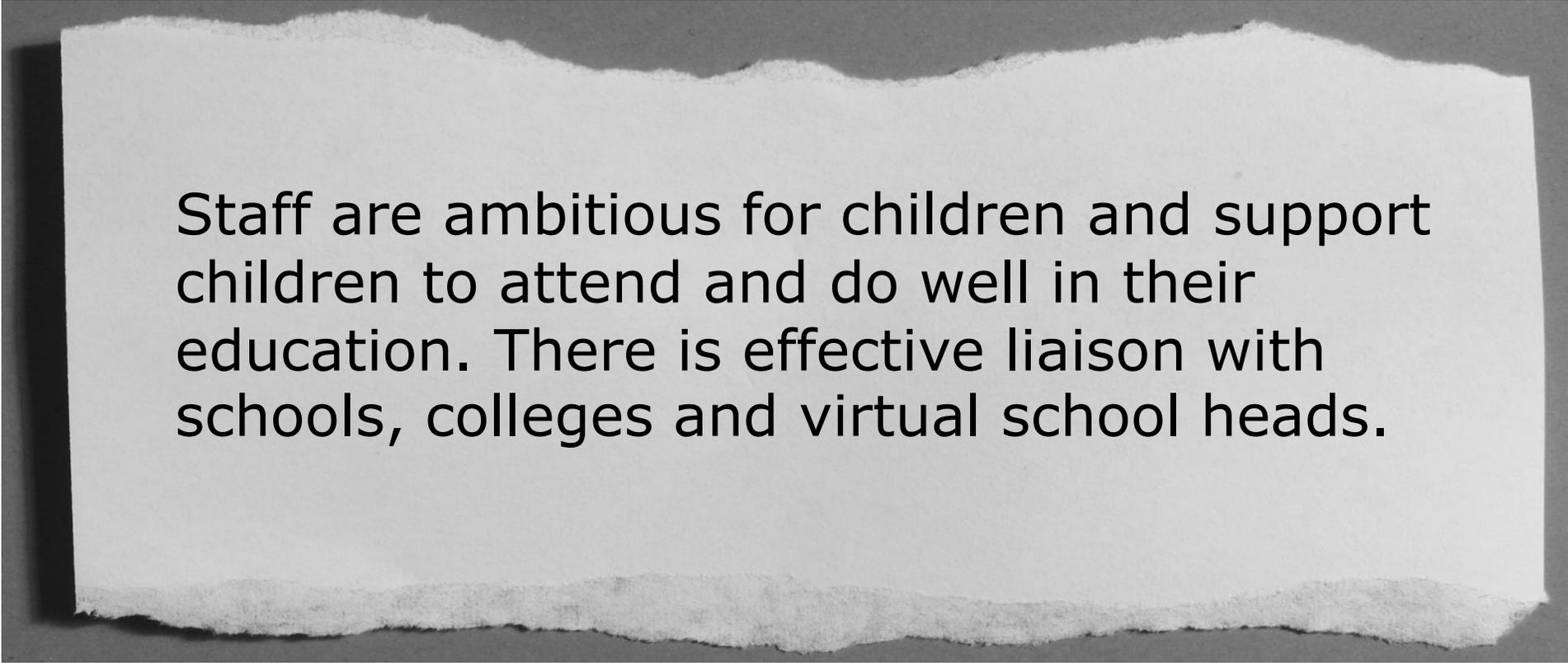


Children's Homes SCCIF Key Elements

- Children attend school or other educational provision.
- They are learning and are making good progress, taking account of their starting points.
- Staff are ambitious for children and support children to attend and do well in their education.
- There is effective liaison with schools, colleges and virtual school heads.
- Where children are excluded, have no school place or attend school on a part-time basis, staff support educational activity throughout the day and advocate for a return to full-time education as soon as possible.
- Children's rights are respected and promoted.
- Irrespective of any disability they may have, children enjoy access to a range of social, educational and recreational opportunities, including activities in the local community.

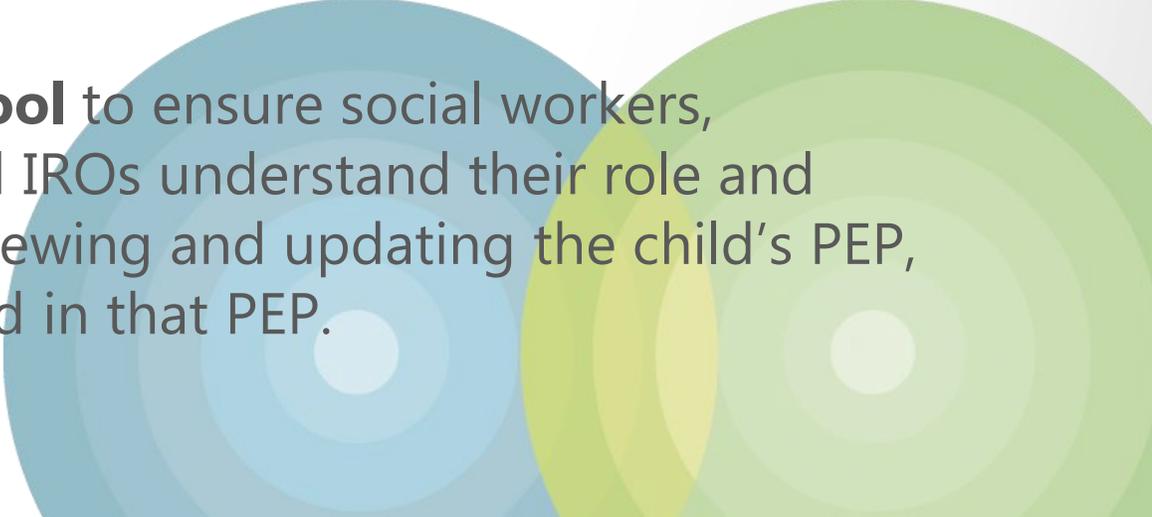


Ofsted comment from inspection – Good



Staff are ambitious for children and support children to attend and do well in their education. There is effective liaison with schools, colleges and virtual school heads.

Top Tips...

- 1. Local authorities have a responsibility to secure a suitable care placement for looked after children in their area.** In discharging this duty, the child's social worker must ensure that all efforts are made to **minimise disruption to the child's education.**
 - 2. Ensure the Personal Education Plan (PEP) accurately details what needs to happen in order for the child to fulfil their potential.**
 - 3. If you are concerned about the PEP, raise with the social worker** that the local authority have a duty to ensure that the PEP fully reflects the educational needs of the child, remains relevant to the child's age, ability and aptitude, and that this is implemented effectively.
 - 4. Work in partnership with the Virtual School** to ensure social workers, designated teachers and schools, carers and IROs understand their role and responsibilities in initiating, developing, reviewing and updating the child's PEP, and how they help meet the needs identified in that PEP.
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Questions to consider...

- Is the child receiving the level of education input they are entitled to?
- Have any concerns been raised in writing to the child's social worker?
- Is the home able to advocate effectively to the virtual school to promote the education needs of the child?
- How will you escalate the concern if the child's education provision is not in your opinion meeting their needs?

