



LASSWADE HIGH SCHOOL

20 24

Supports for Care
Experienced Young People



A guide for Care Experienced students and families on what supports and opportunities are available during your time at Lasswade

Care Experienced at Lasswade

As part of **Scotland's #Promise** to ensure that all care-experienced young people grow up feeling loved, safe and respected, Lasswade takes its responsibility as a corporate parent seriously. We aim to empower our students to reach their full potential whilst removing any potential barriers they may face. This involves working with families and partner agencies to offer a range of services and supports during their time at Lasswade.

What does Care Experienced Mean?

The term Care-Experienced refers to a diverse group of individuals who may have been, or are currently in, the following situations:

- **Foster care**

Living with another family

- **Residential care**

Living in a children's unit

- **Kinship care**

Living with friends or relatives

- **At home**

Living with parent(s), but with formal social work involvement.

- **Adoption**

People who are adopted may have spent variable lengths of time in care before being adopted

It is worth noting that some people may identify as care experienced while others may not.

How can Lasswade support Care Experienced Students?

- **Key Contact**

All students have an allocated member of staff within student support who they or families can contact with any queries or concerns. These key contacts will understand families' individual circumstances, the additional needs of students, and will provide ongoing guidance and targeted support throughout school.

Mr Cairney (student support) is our member of staff leading support for care-experience students. He works closely with a range of agencies who offer various support for care-experienced students. Please email s.cairney@midlothian.education to contact.

Within Midlothian Council we have a designated lead for care experienced young people. You can contact H.Moar@midlothian.education.

- **Advocacy**

As a school we work closely with partner agencies who offer advocacy support to our care-experienced students.

'Who Cares Scotland' ensures that students' voices, thoughts and feelings are expressed during their time at school whilst providing them information on their rights. This can be important when communicating with social workers, carers, Child Panel members, teachers or other professionals. Who Cares Scotland can help represent children and young people at all of their meetings including LAAC reviews, multi-agency meetings, Child protection conferences and child hearings.

Care Experienced at Lasswade

- **Advocacy**

Midlothian Champions Board are a group for care-experienced young people who focus on the positives and negatives in care within Midlothian specifically looking at Education, Employment, Health and Safety, Housing and "Care, Communication and Relationships". They listen to the views of young people and feed this back during Board events where professionals attend from Midlothian Council and other third sectors such as Police Scotland, NHS Lothian, SCRA and skills development Scotland.

- **Funding and Employment Opportunities**

We provide guidance and information based around funding support that are available for senior students who are still at school or are moving into further or higher education opportunities after school. This includes information on [Education Maintenance Allowances](#) and [Care-Experienced Bursaries](#).

Furthermore, as part of the authority's Promise Guarantee, students with care-experienced status are entitled to gain valuable work experience, mentoring and shadowing opportunities for roles within the council. This can also lead to a guaranteed interview for any official job opportunities.

- **Advice for Attending Hearings**

We can provide information to young people about the hearing process/Children's Panel so that they feel supported and understand what will take place.

We can also signpost you to useful websites such as www.SCRA.gov.uk/young-people/

- **Extra-Curricular Opportunities**

We aim to provide safe spaces for our care-experienced and young carer students to meet and connect with like-minded students creating an in-school support network network. Pupils can share their experiences, offer and receive support whilst socialising in a relaxed environment. Please speak to a member of staff in student support to find out what days these are on.

- **Grandmentors**

The [Grandmentors](#) programme which recently launched in Midlothian is an intergenerational mentoring programme which supports young adults with lived experience of the care system, or other barriers and life challenges. Students can be paired and supported by a mentor who would draw on their wealth of professional and personal life experience and skills and provide guidance to young people throughout their life transitions.

Their mentoring provision is bespoke to each individual person on an ongoing basis but often includes:

- Emotional Support, Guidance and Role Modelling
- Increased self-esteem, confidence, and skills development
- Expanding social networks, providing encouragement, motivation and advice on educational and career pathways. Mentors can help with research, applications, and the development of interview skills which offers a sense of direction and purpose.

- **Useful Links**

AdoptionUK: <https://www.adoptionuk.org/scotland>

Kinship Care Scotland: <https://kinship.scot/>

Enquire: <https://enquire.org.uk/>