



**HOLY FAMILY**  
Catholic Primary School

# **Looked after Children Policy**

## **Looked After Children Policy**

### **INTRODUCTION**

Holy Family Catholic Primary School is committed to providing quality education for all its pupils, based on equality of opportunity, access and outcomes. This governing body recognises that, nationally, there is considerable educational underachievement of children in residential and foster care, when compared with their peers, and is committed to implementing the requirements set out in statutory guidance to promote the achievement of LAC, Section 52 of The Children Act, 2004, 'The Roles and Responsibilities of the Designated Teacher, Statutory Guidance for School Governors', 2009 and The Children Act, 1989.

Children who are "looked after" may be "Accommodated ", "In Care" or "remanded/detained" as follows.

#### Accommodated (Section 20)

This is a voluntary arrangement, because parents are ill, missing, unable to cope, or as part of a child protection plan negotiated with the family. The parents retain parental responsibility.

#### In Care

A child is in care only if a court has granted a Care Order which it will issue if it believes a child to be suffering or likely to suffer significant harm. A care order generally gives parental responsibility to the local authority, or shares this with the parents.

#### Remanded/ detained

A child can be remanded or detained as in the following:-

- an emergency protection order
- removed by police using their powers of protection
- remanded by a court following criminal charges
- a court directing a social services department to accommodate a child (already on a supervision order for criminal behaviour) for up to six months.

Looked After Children may (or may not) have some or all the following issues :-

- low self-esteem
- poor education standards due to time out of school
- delayed social/emotional/cognitive development
- be bullied or bully others
- be prone to mental health issues
- be isolated with few friends
- have behaviour issues
- poor attachments to others
- have a need to be very private.

We are aware that Looked After Children constitute a group in the sense that they may share common experiences as a result of having been taken into Public Care, but that they are also individuals and members of other groups. We will take this into account when planning to meet their needs and avoid any action that may lead to stigmatization.

#### Aim

The aim of this policy is to promote educational inclusion for Looked After Children, to enable them to access the full range of educational opportunities available to them and to reach their potential, both academically and personally.

#### Roles and Responsibilities

##### The Designated Teacher

The Designated Teacher is the inclusion teacher.

The role of the Designated Teacher is of central importance in enabling Looked After Children to achieve their full potential in school.

Responsibilities include:

- To be an advocate for the Looked After Children
- To ensure a smooth and welcoming induction for the child and carer if new to the school
- To ensure that a Personal Education Plan (PEP) is completed within 20 days and that it is reviewed at least every 6 months. This should be completed with the social worker, class teacher, carers and where possible the child and their parents
- To ensure records of LAC on roll at the school are kept up to date
- To keep an overview of the academic progress and needs of each LAC pupil and to challenge adults where necessary
- To ensure the young person has a voice in setting learning targets and making decisions about their education
- To prioritise LAC for one to one tuition and other whole school initiatives
- To assist foster carers in supporting learning at home
- To keep abreast of National and local policies and initiatives aimed at supporting the education of LAC
- To attend DT training organised by LACES
- To liaise with social workers, LACES and other outside agencies to support LAC
- To promote differentiation of the curriculum and teaching strategies for LAC
- To lead on the development and implementation of the Personal Education Plan in school
- To run training for staff regarding LAC issues as necessary Looked After Children Policy
- To ensure that the school does everything possible to maximise the educational stability for the child

### The Governing Body

Section 20 of the Children and Young Persons Act 2008 places a duty on the governing body to designate a member of staff as having responsibility to promote the educational achievement of Looked after Children. To this effect, the governing body should:

- Ensure that the necessary provision is being made for any pupil who is a looked after child
- Ensure that the designated staff member is given the appropriate level of support and has the opportunity to keep up to date with relevant training
- Ensure the designated staff member disseminates relevant training and provides support for all members of staff that will influence teaching and learning for Looked After Children.
- In partnership with the Head Teacher be responsible for monitoring how well the role is working. As part of this monitoring an annual report will be received from the DT

Annually review the effective implementation of the school policy for LAC

The named Governor with special responsibility for Looked After Children is Andy Acton.

The named governor will report to the Governing Body on an annual basis;

- The number of Looked After pupils in the school.
- A comparison of test scores for Looked After Children as a group, compared to those of other pupils
- The attendance of pupils as a discrete group, compared to other pupils
- The level of fixed term/ permanent exclusions
- Pupil destinations

The named governor must be satisfied that the school's policies and procedures ensure that Looked After Children have equal access to;

- The National Curriculum
- Statutory assessments
- Additional educational support
- Appropriate pastoral support
- Extra-curricular activities

### The Head Teacher and Senior Leaders

The responsibility for the educational and personal well-being of Looked After Children rests with the Headteacher, although some of the day-to-day tasks may be delegated to other staff. Working with the Senior Leadership Team, the Headteacher will ensure that inclusive strategies are in place for Looked After Children and that staff, particularly the Designated Teacher, are enabled to carry them out.

### All Staff

- To ensure that any Looked After Child is supported sensitively and that confidentiality is maintained
- To support the completion of PEPs and other documentation needed as part of review meetings
- To respond positively to a LAC's request to be the named person they can talk to when they feel it is necessary
- To ensure that no LAC is stigmatised in any way
- To provide a supportive climate to enable a LAC to achieve stability within the school setting
- To have high aspirations for the educational and personal achievement of LAC
- To positively promote the self-esteem of LAC

### The role of the Personal Education Plan (PEP)

- The PEP forms part of the care plan and will be completed within 20 days when a new LAC comes onto the school roll or a current pupil becomes looked after.
- A PEP meeting will be convened at least every 6 months in addition to times when changes are occurring in educational provision or key decisions regarding education need to be made.
- The PEP will be shared with key staff who plan and deliver the support needed by the child
- The PEP form will be updated at least 6 monthly with educational progress, current assessment levels, target levels and other key data
- Effective arrangements will be made for the speedy transfer of information such as the PEP on the transfer of a child to a new teacher or school.

### Funding

Looked after Children are entitled to additional funding to help improve their outcomes and narrow the gap between their outcomes and those of their peers. Holy Family Catholic Primary School is committed to ensuring effective use of dedicated funding, where available, for all eligible Looked after Children on roll to provide additional, personalised support to ensure accelerated progress in order to improve outcomes.

The appropriate use of allocated funding is to be assessed through the Personal Education Plan.