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## **Looked After Children Policy**

### **OVERVIEW:**

'Looked after children' (LAC) are those pupils for whom the Local Authority is sharing parental responsibility. This may be with parental agreement or it may be when a court makes a care order. The child could be living with foster carers, in a residential unit, with other family members or with their parents. These children are therefore subject to corporate parenting. This school recognises that 'looked after children' have very specific needs which arise from their situation and they frequently suffer from distress and uncertainty.

### **OBJECTIVES:**

1. To ensure that LAC thrive and reach their potential in all areas of their education, social, personal, emotional and physical development.
2. To ensure that pastoral care and support is in place and effective to meet the particular needs of LAC.
3. To ensure that teachers and other staff understand and take account of the evidence that LAC are more likely than others to underachieve and are at greater risk of exclusion compared with their peers.
4. To ensure that teachers and staff are aware and take account of the evidence that LAC's academic and social progress is likely to be affected by their experiences, and compounded by instability in their personal circumstances.
5. To ensure that all in this school are committed to helping LAC succeed by working with other relevant agencies to providing a better future for them. This will be a key priority for all in our school.

### **KEY STRATEGIES:**

1. The school will provide an appropriately trained senior member of staff, Mrs Clerkin, Deputy Head, as a Designated Teacher who will be responsible for all Looked After children. This designated teacher will:
  - ensure a welcome and smooth induction for the child and their carer
  - ensure that a Personal Education Plan is completed in consultation with the child, the social worker, the foster carer and any other relevant people:
  - track academic progress and target support appropriately;

- use the Personal Education Plan to plan for any transition;
- ensure that each Looked After Child has an identified member of staff that they can talk to
- ensure that LAC are not subjected to any possible bullying or unacceptable treatment because of their circumstances

2. All Looked After Children will have a Personal Education Plan (PEP) drawn up between the school, the child, and the child's social worker, which will identify the child's individual needs and the support they require.
3. All in school will ensure that high expectations are set for each LAC and all will ensure that each LAC has equal access to the same rich, balanced and broadly based education that every child in this school receives.
4. Any specific difficulties in transport and attendance, doing homework, getting parental consent for activities, obtaining funding for extra activities, obtaining correct uniform and equipment, as well as stigma about their circumstances will be recognised early and dealt with sensitively, discreetly, efficiently and effectively.
5. Monitoring the attendance of LAC will be a priority and swift, appropriate action will be taken where there are concerns.
6. The school will establish good communication between all those involved in the child's life.
7. The school will maintain and respect the child's confidentiality wherever possible by ensuring staff awareness of, and sensitivity to, the circumstances of each child.
8. School governors will be reported back to setting out: the number of looked after pupils on the school's roll (if any); their attendance, as a discreet group, compared to other pupils; their progress and achievement, as a discreet group, compared to other pupils; the number of fixed term and permanent exclusions (if any); the destinations of pupils who leave the school. This will be done in a manner which preserves the anonymity and respect the confidentiality individual pupils.

#### **OUTCOMES:**

The provision we make will ensure that LAC will thrive in this school. The guidance and regulations for the care and education of LAC's will be met in full. We will take particular account of The Education (Admission of Looked After Children) (England) Regulations 2006 and the most recent relevant DfES guidance to Governing Bodies (Supporting Looked After Learners: A Practical Guide for School Governors).