



# CHRIST THE SAVIOUR C.E. PRIMARY SCHOOL



Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms

*1 Peter 4:10*

## Looked After Child Policy

Policy to be approved by	Full Governing Body
Policy last reviewed	May 2020
Policy ratified and adopted by the Full Governing Body	May 2020
Policy due for review	Summer 2022

# Looked After Children Policy

## Introduction

The governing body of Christ the Saviour is committed to providing quality first 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 principles and practice, as outlined in “Guidance on the Education of Looked After Children” and Section 52 of the Children Act 2004. Children who are “looked after” are defined as follows:

## 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.

Looked after (or post-LAC) may (or may not) have some of the following issues:

- Low self esteem
- Poor education standards due to time out of the school
- Delayed social/emotional/cognitive development
- Be bullied or bully others
- Be prone to mental health issues
- Be isolated with few friends
- Have behavioural issues
- Poor attachments to others
- Have a need to be very private

This can make them an extremely disadvantaged groups in terms of education and future life chances. The governing body of Christ the Saviour School is committed to ensuring that these children are supported as fully as possible and will ensure that the following are in place, and are working effectively:

- A Designated teacher for Looked After Children and Post Looked After Children (Rose Norris)
- Personal Education Plans for all Looked After Children
- All staff to have a clear understanding of confidentiality and issues that affect looked after children
- Effective strategies that supports the education of this vulnerable group

## Role and Responsibility of the Designated Teacher

The Designated Teacher should:

- Be an advocate for LAC
- When new to the school, ensure a smooth and welcome induction for the child and carer, and note any specific requirements, including care status
- Ensure that a PEP is completed, as soon as possible. This should be prepared with the child and the carer, in liaison with the social worker and other relevant support workers/agencies, and be linked to the Care Plan meetings, within 28 days, 3 months and 6 months and, at least, every 6 months
- Keep PEPs and other records up to date, particularly in time to inform review meetings
- Ensure that each child in public care has an identified member of staff that they can talk to
- Coordinate support for the child in the school and liaise with other professionals and carers as necessary

- Ensure that the child and carers receive early notification of meetings, parents evenings and other events and that communication remains regular and positive
- Ensure LAC children take part in extracurricular activities
- Ensure transfer of information between individuals and other relevant agencies
- Seek urgent meetings with relevant parties where the child is experiencing difficulties and/or is in danger of being excluded
- Ensure that any returns on looked after children are completed- as requested by the LA

## **Roles and Responsibilities of all staff**

- Ensure that any child in public care is supported sensitively and that confidentiality is maintained
- Respond positively to a child in public care's request to be the named person that they can talk to when they feel it is necessary
- Contribute to the DT's request for information on educational attainment and needs, as appropriate
- Provide a supportive climate to enable a child in public care to achieve stability within the school setting
- As with all children, have high aspirations for the educational and personal achievement of LAC
- Positively promote the self-esteem of LAC

## **Role and Responsibility of the Governing Body**

The governing body of this school will:

- Ensure all governors are fully aware of the legal requirements and Guidance for Looked After Children
- Be aware of whether the school has LAC and how many
- Ensure that there is a named Designated Teacher for LAC
- Support the Headteacher, Designated Teacher and other staff in ensuring needs of LAC are met
- Review the effective implementation of this policy, preferably annually

## **Confidentiality**

- Information on LAC will be shared with school staff on a "need to know basis"
- The DT will discuss what information is shared with which school staff at the PEP meeting

## **Training**

- The Headteacher or the Designated Teacher will be responsible for ensuring all staff are briefed on the regulations and practice outlined in this policy

## **\*Personal Education Plan Completion**

- Social worker informs school of a child becoming looked after
- Date is set for the completion of a PEP
- Copy of the form is sent to the school to enable completion of educational data PEP meeting takes place within 20 days, involving the social worker, designated teacher (or other appropriate staff), carer and young person if appropriate
- A date is set for the next PEP meeting
- PEP sent by SW to the LAC team

