



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	April 2023
Policy ratified and adopted by the Full Governing Body	Summer 2023
Policy due for review	Summer 2026

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:

Looked After Children (LAC) are defined as:

- Children or young people who are the subject of a Care Order or Interim Care Order under the Children Act 1989.
- Children who are placed in foster care, children’s residential homes, with relatives or friends, in semi-independent or supported independent accommodation.
- Children subject to a Care or Interim Care Order whilst placed with a parent, where the LA has parental responsibility.
- Children who are not subject to an order, but are accommodated by the LA under an agreement with their parents or respite care.

Previously - Looked After Children (PLAC) are defined as:

- Children who are no longer looked after by an LA in England and Wales because they have either been adopted or are the subject of an adoption, special guardianship or child arrangements order.
- Children who were adopted outside England and Wales from ‘state care’ (care that is provided by a public authority, religious organisation, or other organisation whose main purpose is to benefit society).

LAC reviews, involving the school, will take place up until an adoption order has been granted.

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 group 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
- Trauma training for staff
- Effective strategies that supports the education of this vulnerable group
- Support given to staff by designated LAC teacher, Dramatheapist and SENCO
- Transitions for LAC/PLACn pupils are carefully planned at the start and end of the year

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/PLAC 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
- Oversee whole school transition for PLAC/LAC pupils at the end of an academic year to ensure smooth transition to a new year group

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 Designated Teacher 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
- Designated Teacher to attend relevant training about LAC and acting as the key liaison professional for other agencies and carers in relation to LAC/PLAC.

***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