



Education of Looked After Children Designated Teacher for Looked After and Previously Looked After Children

Introduction

Looked after children (LAC) include those who are subject to care orders and those cared for on a voluntary basis, accommodated by the local authority.

Nationally, LAC significantly underachieve educationally and are at a greater risk of exclusion than their peers. Schools have a major part to play in ensuring that LAC are enabled to be healthy, stay safe, enjoy, achieve, make a positive contribution to society and achieve economic well-being.

The Governing Body of Abbey Meads Community Primary School is committed to providing quality education for all pupils, based on equality of opportunity, access and outcomes. We implement the principles and practice, as outlined in 'Promoting The Education Of Looked After and Previously Looked After Children' (2014) and Section 52 of the Children Act 2004.

This policy links with other school policies including:

- Behaviour policy
- Equality policy
- Safeguarding and Child Protection policy
- Special Education Needs and Disabilities policy
- Individual subject policies

Aims and Principles

We aim to:

- Provide a safe and secure environment, where education is valued and there is a belief in the abilities and potential of children
- Support our LAC and give them access to every opportunity to achieve to their potential, enjoy learning and take as full a part as possible in all school activities
- Ensure that school policies and procedures are followed for LAC as for all children
- Work with the Virtual School and ensure that carers, social workers are kept fully informed of the child's progress and attainment.

Our school's approach to supporting the educational achievement of LAC is based on the following principles:

- Prioritising education
- Promoting attendance
- Targeting support
- Having high expectations
- Promoting inclusion
- Achieving stability and continuity
- Early intervention and targeted action
- Listening to children – pupil voice
- Promoting health and well-being
- Avoiding or reducing exclusions
- Working in partnership with parents, carers, social workers, the Virtual School and

other professionals.

Strategic Management:

We are committed to ensuring that LAC are supported as fully as possible and will ensure that the following are in place and working effectively:

- A Designated Teacher (DT) for LAC who will act as their advocate and coordinate support for them. This is the Deputy Head Teacher – Mrs M Cunningham.
- A designated school governor to ensure that the needs of LAC in the school are taken into account at a school leadership level and to support the DT.
The Child Protection and Safeguarding link governor Mrs L Hume has this role
- Support for the DT is supported in carrying out their role by making time available and ensuring that they attend relevant training on LAC.
- Monitor effectiveness of the work of the DT and provision including through completing an annual report.
- Monitor attendance and punctuality data and take action as necessary.
- Work in partnership with the Local Authority to ensure admission arrangements are followed.
- Support the local authority in its statutory duty to promote the educational achievement of LAC.

Designated Teacher - Responsibilities in school:

- Know who all the LAC are in school and ensuring that school record-keeping systems are maintained as required
- Ensure that a Personal Education Plan (PEP) is completed as soon as possible. This should be prepared with the child and carer in liaison with the social worker and other relevant support agencies/workers
- Attend relevant training about LAC and act as the key liaison professional for other agencies and carers in relation to LAC
- Promote a culture of high expectations and aspirations for how LAC should learn
- Help school staff understand the issues that affect the learning of LAC such as differentiated teaching strategies appropriate for individual children and in making full use of Assessment for Learning
- Make sure that LAC are prioritised in one-to-one tuition arrangements and that carers understand the importance of supporting learning at home
- Remove barriers to learning for LAC
- Ensure any LAC new to the school are welcomed positively and assessed when they start at the school to identify strengths and weaknesses in their learning. This will be used to inform planning and teaching
- Develop personalised learning programmes for LAC in conjunction with the relevant teaching staff
- Ensure that the LAC have a voice in setting learning targets for themselves
- Be a 'champion' for LAC.
- Facilitate access to extra-curricular provision.
- Raise concerns in a timely manner and take action as appropriate.
- Ensure Pupil Premium funding is used effectively to support good attendance, punctuality, behaviour, progress and attainment.

- Lead on developing and implementing the PEP within the school. The social worker is responsible for initiating the PEP process and completing the front page of the PEP.
- Monitor the child's progress against the targets on the PEP and extending these targets if they have been achieved
- Liaise with the Virtual School in all aspects of the LAC progress and support
- Convene urgent multi-agency meetings if a LAC is experiencing difficulties or is at risk of exclusion
- Arrange for a mentor or key worker to be made available whom the young person can talk to. Arrange for the LAC to be supported by their peers
- Produce **at least one** annual report to the governing body which should include: current progress, attendance and exclusions (if any), any concerns regarding behaviour, how the PEP has been implemented and whether the actions put in place are effective in addressing the learning needs of LAC, how the Designated Teacher works in partnership with the LA and training undertaken for carrying out the role effectively. The report must not mention the children's names for confidentiality reasons
- Promote good home-school links and the importance of education as a way of improving life chances for LAC.

For more information please see:

The role and responsibilities of the designated teacher for looked after children – Statutory guidance for school governing bodies.

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 school staff at the PEP meeting. Confidentiality will be maintained.