

POLICY FOR LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN

1 DEFINITION

1.1 Children Looked After (CLA) are those in public care and are either:
Subject to a Care Order or Interim Care Order, living either at home or away from home. The Local Authority has parental authority which it then shares with the parents in a prescribed way.

Accommodated with friends or relatives, foster care or residential homes – Parents retain full parental responsibility.

Remanded into care.

1.2 A private agreement is not public care - when a child lives with friends or relatives by private arrangement and these children are not designated as Children Looked After

2 AIMS

2.1 That Children Looked After will prosper as per the Every Child Matters agenda, that is to:

Stay safe

Be healthy

Enjoy and achieve

Be involved

Acquire economic well being

3 RATIONALE

3.1 The national outcomes for Children Looked After in terms of educational achievement and subsequent life chances are of real concern.

3.2 It follows that children and young people who are looked after need special treatment and positive discrimination in their favour if this situation is to be improved.

3.3 For Children Looked After this school aims to provide positive experiences and to offer stability, safety, continuity, and individual care and attention.

4 ROLES AND PRIORITIES

4.1.1 The Headteacher and Senior Leadership Team

The Headteacher and Senior Leadership Team will ensure the provision/outcomes for Children Looked After are specifically recorded in:-

Appropriate School Policies and Procedures

Specific Reports on issues such as student progress in relation to targets and Fischer

Family Trust; exam results; attendance; behaviour, sanctions, exclusions; student

voice.

School Development Plan - if evaluation shows that improvement in provision is needed

4.1.2 The Headteacher and Leadership team will also:-

Provide an annual report on the provision for, and progress of, Children Looked After to the Governing Body.

Ensure staff are aware that the provision to support Children Looked After is a key school priority.

Give the Designated Teacher for Children Looked After the time and facilities to carry out his / her job description and to support them at all times in their work.

Show a personal interest and involvement in Children Looked After in the school.

Challenge negative stereotypes of Children Looked After if they exist and to insist on the highest of expectations and especially in terms of Children Looked After achieving their full potential.

Provide Continuing Professional Development for staff on issues pertaining to Children Looked After and to ensure that Designated Teachers attend regular training.

Provide information to the School Improvement Partner regarding the progress of Children Looked After on the school's roll.

4.2 GOVERNING BODY

4.2.1 The Governing Body will appoint a Designated Teacher for Children Looked After

4.2.2 The Governing Body will receive reports on Children Looked After as outlined above.

4.3 DESIGNATED TEACHER

4.3.1 The Designated Teacher will:

- Be a champion for Children Looked After within the school and ensure that they are receiving special provision.
- Ensure that the Children Looked After are aware of who the Designated Teacher is, and that their College Leader and Care Leader are the members of staff whose role is to support them at school.
- Ensure that teachers who need to know are aware of who are Children Looked After
- Ensure that the staff treat the information confidentially.
- Ensure that any issues regarding a child or young person being in care are treated sensitively by all staff.
- To support the College Leader to draw up strategies for students who are not achieving, behaving poorly or not attending and then monitor the success of their implementation.
- To act as the liaison for the school with CIS and the Virtual School with regard to CLA
- To undertake periodic student voice exercises.
- To liaise closely with the Virtual School Team
- Contact the Virtual School Team if access is needed to a Social Worker or a multi-agency team;
- Informing the Virtual School Team of any problems out of school that seem to have been identified;
- Seeking the support of the Virtual School Team if LA or other agency procedures do

- not seem to be giving necessary support to Children Looked After keeping the Virtual School Team informed about the general progress of Children Looked After ;
- Informing the Virtual School Team if carers do not seem to be cooperating with the school in helping the student's educational development.

NB: The Virtual School Team will keep Designated Teachers informed on all issues relating to their Looked After Children on a continuous and regular basis.

4.4 COLLEGE LEADERS AND CARE LEADERS

4.4.1 College Leaders and Care Leaders will:

On a day to day basis provide support for CLA in their college.
Ensure that all possible is being done to raise the achievement levels of Children Looked After –

- The students are following an appropriate curriculum (and in Years 8 and 9 make the best possible option choices);
- The students know their targets and get feedback at least termly on how they are improving in relation to these targets and how they can improve and do better;
The school's data tracking and comparisons with FFT show on a half - termly basis if a student is underachieving with monitored intervention strategies then being put into place;
- The students are entered for public exams in all cases unless it is totally inappropriate;
The students have access to any booster support that is available in the school;
- The students have all possible individual assistance in developing their basic literacy, reading and numeracy skills;
Students on the Special Educational Needs register receive all possible support to meet their needs;
Able students have access to the school's Gifted and Talented provision;
All possible support is given at times of transition (KS2 – KS3, KS3- KS4, KS4 – KS5);
Students are completing homework and coursework on time and of good quality and that intervention takes place if this is not the case.
- Ensure Children Looked After receive extra support as necessary and appropriate, with the key aims of helping them achieve their academic potential and further their personal and social development.
- To ensure that Children Looked After receive a smooth induction into the school, with the obtaining of all relevant past history.
- To keep comprehensive and up to date files on each student and to ensure that these are passed on should the student move school.
- To meet with the Children Looked After regularly to check progress and to listen to his/her views about both in school and out of school issues.
- To play the lead educational role at PEP meetings and in setting individual PEPs.
- To check with staff on a continuous basis how the students are doing and to intervene quickly at the first sign of a problem, eg. behaviour issues, poor effort etc.

- To monitor attendance on a regular basis and to report any concerns to the Assistant Head straightaway.

In secondary schools to ensure that:-

- Students undertake work experience and have access to enterprise and work related education, including Aim Higher and link activities with further and higher education;
- Students receive all possible guidance and assistance in terms of their post 16 pathways, with the aim of ensuring that they progress to education, employment or training;
- Students are given specific help in developing the social and personal skills that will give them better life chances.
 - To encourage students to be fully involved in extra curricular and extension activities both in and outside school; to help them with the logistics of taking part in school trips and other activities; to encourage them to be fully involved in the school, eg year and school councils.
 - To ensure that students know there is someone they can approach if ever they have a problem or just want to talk, (this could be either the Designated Teacher or another member of staff).
 - To make provision for specific mentoring or counselling as needed.
 - To liaise with carers keeping them informed but also urging them to be partners in the student's education and showing them how they can do this.
 - To ensure that students are getting their fair share of praise and rewards from the school's systems and to intervene when this seems not to be the case.
 - To be vigilant for any child protection issues and also to check carefully for any sign of a Child Looked After being bullied.
 - To ensure that the School Nurse is aware of the child's medical history and is liaising with the Children Looked After Health Support Team.

4.5 TEACHERS

4.5.1 To be aware of Children Looked After in their classes and to give them all possible support and encouragement as students who need special provision and positive discrimination whilst preserving confidentiality and showing sensitivity and understanding.

Review Date: 2018