



## **Looked After and Previously Looked After Children Policy**

Originator: Debbie Drane

September 2020

## 1. POLICY STATEMENT

Within this policy 'we' and 'us' means the School.

We are committed to promoting the educational achievements, opportunities and welfare of children looked after under the Children Act 1989, thereby contributing towards achieving the five outcomes of *Every Child Matters*.

## 2. TO WHOM THIS POLICY APPLIES

This policy applies to all staff, the Governing Body and those pupils looked after under Sections 20, 21, 31, 38, 44 and 46 of the Children Act 1989. We recognise that the principles of this policy may also apply to children who have previously been 'looked after' and/or are adopted.

## 3. WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR CARRYING OUT THIS POLICY

The Designated Teacher for Looked After Children.

## 4. THE PRINCIPLES BEHIND THIS POLICY

The educational attainment of children in public care is nationally recognised as considerably below that of their peers: the intention of this policy is for staff to work in collaboration with other agencies involved with our 'looked after' students in order to work towards addressing this discrepancy.

Children who come into public care have often experienced loss, trauma and repeated changes of personal circumstances. Therefore, we recognise the importance of providing a personalised approach in all aspects of its work with these students.

## 5. PROCEDURES

We will follow the protocol set out by the local authority which is responsible for the child's placement.

## 6. PERSONAL EDUCATION PLANS (ePEP) AND CLA SELF EVALUATION FORMS (CLASEF)

The school will ensure that every CLA on roll has a Personal Education Plan (ePEP) meeting that is reviewed termly, within the statutory care planning framework, and in collaboration with the social worker, carer and other relevant professionals. The school will complete the CLASEF to inform the relevant Local Authority's Virtual School of the school's policy and practice, to account for the efficient and effective spend of the PP+ funding and to inform the school Governing Body on the annual report.

## 7. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The Headteacher and Governing Body are committed to promoting improved educational life chances for CLA and PLA. They will ensure that the Designated Teacher for Children Looked After has qualified teacher status, appropriate seniority in the leadership team and time and experience to fulfil this statutory role. They will monitor the role of the Designated Teacher to ensure that all CLA and PLA make accelerated and rapid progress and that the whole school staff receives appropriate training.

The Designated Teacher for Children Looked after and Children Previously Looked After is Mrs D Drane. She is a qualified teacher and will promote improved educational life chances for CLA and PLA by:

- being an advocate for CLA and PLA within school and ensure they have access to qualify first teaching
- tracking the progress of CLA and PLA across the curriculum using data, teacher reports and lesson monitoring
- ensuring that PP+ is used effectively and efficiently
- performing a coordinating role with school staff and outside agencies
- ensuring effective communication with the Virtual School
- developing expertise in the field of CLA
- providing and attending training and offering advice to the whole school staff
- promoting a school culture which is supportive and has high expectations of CLA and PLA
- regularly reporting to the Head and Governing Body on the attainment of CLA and PLA and school resource and staff training needs for working with this group
- prioritising CLA for school-based additional support, even when the young person does not meet the criteria (*DfE Designated teacher for looked-after and previously looked-after children Statutory guidance for local-authority-maintained schools carrying out duties for looked-after and previously looked-after children. 28th February 2018*).
- ensuring that CLA and PLA are not overlooked for positions of student responsibility within the school because of their care status
- ensure all CLA and PLA have an appropriate Personal Educational Plan (PEP) and ensure that the young person contributes to the plan.
- arrange and contribute to PEP meetings; monitor the targets set out in the PEP
- ensure speedy transfer of information, records and other paperwork, where appropriate, when a CLA or PLA transfers to another educational setting.
- promoting good home – school links and the importance of education as a way of improving life chances for CLA or PLA; ensuring that carers and care staff are engaged with the targets outlined in the PEP.

For more information please see:

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

<http://publications.teachernet.gov.uk/eOrderingDownload/01046-2009BKT-EN.PDF>

***Improving the Educational Attainment of Children in Care (Looked after Children)***

<http://publications.everychildmatters.gov.uk/eOrderingDownload/DCSF-00523-2009.pdf>

**All staff** will promote improved educational life chances for CLA and PLA by:

- reading the 'school policy' and 'school policy guidance document' for CLA
- attending training, as appropriate
- providing accurate information and data when asked by the Designated Teacher
- referring to the Designated Teacher for advice
- playing their part in creating an attachment and trauma-informed 'CLA-friendly' culture and securing rapid progress for CLA by ensuring that they benefit from any additional school-based support available

## 8. MULTI-AGENCY WORKING

School staff will make every effort to engage with colleagues from other agencies and facilitate their work. This will enable colleagues to successfully perform their roles and positively impact on the education and wider needs of CLA and PLA.

## 9. SAFEGUARDING

School staff will be vigilant for any safeguarding issues which can impact particularly on CLA and PLA by:

Familiarising themselves with the schools safeguarding policy and the 'DfE Keeping Children Safe in Education' document, if there are any safeguarding concerns.

The Headteacher, Designated Teacher and Governing Body will ensure that all staff are briefed on the regulations and practice outlined in this policy.

Date: 16<sup>th</sup> September 2020

Review: September 2021

### **Peterborough and Cambridgeshire Virtual Schools for Children Looked After**

#### **Peterborough:**

Email: [virtualschool@peterborough.gov.uk](mailto:virtualschool@peterborough.gov.uk)

Phone: 01733 864097

#### **Cambridgeshire:**

Website: <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/children-and-families/children-s-social-care/looked-after-children/virtual-school-for-looked-after-children>

Email: [virtualschool@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:virtualschool@cambridgeshire.gov.uk)

Phone: 01223 699883