

Looked-after Children Policy



Believe, Succeed, Together

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Contents

1.0 Definition of Looked-after Children	3
2.0 Funding	3
3.0 Approach to Supporting and Managing LAC.....	3
4.0 Designated Teacher for LAC.....	4
5.0 Tracking and Reporting on LAC.....	4
6.0 Requirements of Staff	4

1.0 Definition of Looked-after Children

Under the Children Act 1989, a child is 'looked after by a local authority' if he or she is in their care or provided with accommodation for more than 24 hours by the local authority.

Looked-after Children (LAC) fall into four main groups:

- Children who are accommodated under a voluntary agreement with their parents (section 20).
- Children who are the subject of a care order (section 31) or interim care order (section 38).
- Children who are the subject of an emergency orders for their protection (sections 44 and 46).
- Children who are compulsorily accommodated – this includes children remanded to the local authority or subject to a criminal justice supervision order with a residence requirement.

For the purposes of this policy, LAC are:

- Children who are looked after by a local authority within the meaning of section 22 of the Children Act 1989.
- Children who are no longer looked after because they are the subject of an adoption, special guardianship or child arrangements order which includes arrangements relating to with whom the child is to live, or when the child is to live with any person, or has been adopted from 'state care' outside England and Wales.

2.0 Funding

LAC are assigned an annual 'Pupil Premium Plus Grant' (PP+) of £2,345.

In the case of LAC that are currently looked after, the funding goes to the Virtual School of the local authority in question and is managed by the Virtual Headteacher.

In the case of LAC that were previously looked after, the funding goes directly to the Academy.

3.0 Approach to Supporting and Managing LAC

The Academy's approach to supporting and managing LAC is as follows:

- Having high expectations.
- Prioritising educational achievement (attainment and progress) - [Improving the Attainment of Looked-after Young People in Secondary Schools](#).
- Prioritising attendance.
- Reducing exclusions.
- Providing early intervention.
- Providing targeted support.
- Providing stability and continuity.
- Promoting health and well-being.
- Working in partnership with carers, social workers and other relevant professionals and bodies.

4.0 Designated Teacher for LAC

The Designated Teacher for LAC (DTLAC) is Assistant Principal, Mr. Y. Moyet.

The Assistant Designated Teacher for LAC (ADTLAC) is Ms L. Rutter.

The DTLAC and ADTLAC work within the [Statutory Guidance for the Designated Teacher for Looked-after Children \(2018\)](#).

5.0 Tracking and Reporting on LAC

The DTLAC uses bespoke tracking software to track LAC, specifically:

- PAT (Pastoral) – in respect to attendance and exclusions.
- PAT (Achievement) – in respect to attainment and progress.

The DTLAC maintains logs in respect to other information e.g. record of intervention strategies, attendance to extra-curricular activities etc.

The DTLAC meets once a term with the Local Governor with responsibility for LAC.

Data from the tracking software, in addition to other information, is used to produce an annual report for the Local Governing Body.

6.0 Requirements of Staff

In the effective implementation of this policy all staff should:

- Convey high aspirations for LAC educational and personal achievement.
- Be familiar with, and respond appropriately to, requests for attainment and progress information in order to compile the Personal Education Plan (PEP) and other documentation necessary for reviews; respond positively to any request by a child to be the person they want to talk with; ensure that no LAC becomes the victim of stigmatisation at any time and that any such attitudes are swiftly reported and eradicated.
- Positively promote the self-esteem and general well-being of LAC.
- Ensure the appropriate sensitivities and confidentiality are maintained.