



Looked-After Children Policy

**Reviewed:
Feb 2020**

**Due for review:
Feb 2021**

INTRODUCTION

Who are our Looked After Children (LAC)?

Children and young people become 'Looked After' either if they have been taken into Care by the local authority, or have been accommodated by the local authority (Care Order). Most Looked After Children are accommodated with families (foster carers), some may be accommodated in a children's home, some may live with a relative or be placed back at home with their natural parent under a Supervision Order. Looked After Children are also known as CLA – Children Looked After.

Looked After Children will have a care manager through their local Authority responsible for the care plan. This is usually a Social Worker.

Looked After Children will have a designated Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO) who is an independent professional overseeing the wellbeing of the child. The IRO is responsible for chairing the LAC review and will give guidance on planning for the education and accommodation placements for the child. Every Looked After Children should have an Education, Health and Care (EHC) plan managed by the LA in which they originated.

The governing body of New Rush Hall School is committed to providing quality 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 Looked After Children, when compared with their peers, and is committed to implementing the principles and practice, as outlined in DfEE Circular 0269/2000 and DfEE/DOH Guidance 2000 and the Children Act (2004). The Children Act places a duty to safeguard looked after children, to promote their educational achievements and to ensure that they are able to "achieve and reach their full potential". The Guidance recognises the collective responsibility of local authorities and schools to achieve good parenting and sets out six principles:

- Prioritising education
- Having high expectations
- Inclusion – changing and challenging attitudes
- Achieving continuity and stability
- Early intervention – priority action
- Listening to children.

The Guidance introduced two key measures:

- To ensure Designated Teachers are nominated in every school
- To ensure Personal Education Plans (PEPs) are in place for all Looked After Children.

Designated Teacher – Mr Sam Walters
Designated LAC Coordinator – Ms Michelle Hodge

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE DT/LAC COORDINATOR

- Be an advocate for Looked After Children;
- Ensure a smooth and welcoming induction for the child and carer/parents.
- Note any specific requirements, including care status and safeguarding concerns
- Attend the LAC review whenever possible
- Along with the SW/VS ensure that a Personal Education Plan is completed (within 20 days of entering care or joining a new school). This should be prepared with the child, and the carer/parents, in liaison with the virtual school, the social worker and other relevant support workers/agencies. Where appropriate, the PEP should take account of any Individual Educational Plan (IEP), Pastoral Support Plan (PSP), Individual Behaviour Plan (IBP), career plan or any other

relevant plans. The PEP should include targets and show progress.

- Discuss the use of the Pupil Premium and how it is best used in supporting education
- Ensure that each Looked After Child has an identified member of staff to talk with.
- Ensure, when appropriate, entry to examinations for all Looked After Children
- Co-ordinate support for the child in the school and liaise with other professionals and carers as necessary
- Monitor any interventions and progress
- Ensure staff and governors receive relevant information and training
- Ensure confidentiality for individual children and only share personal information on a need to know basis
- Provide written information to assist planning/review meetings and ensure attendance as far as possible
- Encourage Looked After Children to participate in extra-curricular activities and out of hours learning
- Seek urgent meetings with relevant parties when necessary

LINKS WITH EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS

- Social care worker/ Community care worker/ Residential childcare worker
- Virtual School for Looked After Children (Looked After Children in Education Team)
- Other Virtual Schools for looked after children from other Local Authorities
- Educational psychologists and others from Local Authority SEN services
- Medical officers
- School nurses
- CAMHS
- Education Welfare Officers
- Youth Offending Service/police
- External Learning Providers

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF ALL STAFF

- To have high aspirations and celebrate the educational and personal achievement of Looked After Children
- Ensure entry to appropriate examinations for Looked After Children
- Be familiar with the Guidance on Looked After Children and respond appropriately to requests for information to support the completion of IEPs PEPs and other documentation needed as part of review meetings
- Liaise with the Designated Teacher where a Looked After Child is experiencing difficulty

ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITY OF THE GOVERNING BODY

- Ensure that admission criteria (Aided and Foundation) prioritise LAC, according to the Code of Practice on Admissions
- Ensure all governors are fully aware of the legal requirements and Guidance for Looked After Children
- Ensure that there is a named Designated Teacher for Looked After Children
- Nominate a governor who links with the Designated Teacher, receives regular progress reports and provides feedback to the governing body
- To observe child protection and confidentiality protocol, ensure that information will be collected and reported in ways that preserve the anonymity, and respect the confidentiality of the pupils concerned.
- Review the effective implementation of this policy, preferably annually and at least every three

- years.
- Ensure that the school's other policies and procedures give looked after children equal access in respect of:
 - Admission to school
 - Safeguarding
 - Health and Safety
 - The National Curriculum and public examinations
 - Additional educational support where this is needed
 - Extra curricular activities
 - Work experience and careers guidance

TRAINING

The Head Teacher, Head of School and Designated LAC Coordinator will be responsible for ensuring all staff are briefed on the regulations and practice outlined in the guidance from the DfES and DoH (as above).

SOURCE OF ADDITIONAL ADVICE AND INFORMATION

Sholah Steele Head of Redbridge Virtual School
Sholah.Steele@redbridge.gov.uk 02087083939

- Promoting the education of looked after children and previously looked-after children -DfE Statutory guidance for local authorities – February 2018
- Keeping Children Safe in Education Policy - September 2019

Date agreed by the Governing Body: **Feb 2020**

Date of next review: **Feb 2021**