

Bishop Rawstorne Church of England Academy



Looked After Children and Previously Looked After Children Policy

I have come in order that you might have life—life in all its fullness.

John 10:10

Aspire Believe Achieve

This policy document and the content contained therein remains the responsibility of the Headteacher, and Governing Body of the Academy. No amendments can be made without their express instruction and they remain the final arbiters in any matters relating to it.

Review date: March 2019

Next review date: March 2020

Reviewed by: Mr A Duckworth

Approved by the Full Governing Body — 26 March 2019

Definition

Looked after Children (LAC) 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.

Previously Looked After Children (PLAC) are no longer looked after by a local authority in England and Wales because they are the subject of an adoption, special guardianship or child arrangements order; or were adopted from 'state care' outside England and Wales.

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 Looked After or Previously Looked After.

Aims

That Looked after Children and Previously Looked after Children 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

Rationale

- The national outcomes for Children Looked After in terms of educational achievement and subsequent life chances are of real concern.
- 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.
- For Looked After Children and Previously Looked After Children Bishop Rawstone Church Of England Academy aims to provide positive experiences and to offer stability, safety, continuity, and individual care and attention.

ROLES AND PRIORITIES

The Headteacher and Leadership Group

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

- Appropriate School Policies and Procedures
- Specific Reports on issues such as student progress in relation to Academic targets, exam results, attendance, behaviour, sanctions, exclusions and student voice.

The Headteacher and Leadership Team will also:

- Ensure staff are aware that the provision to support Looked After and Previously Looked After Children is a key School priority.
- Provide an annual report on the provision for, and progress of, Looked After and Previously Looked After Children to the Governing Body.
- Support the Assistant Headteacher who is the designated person for Looked After and Previously Looked After Children
- Show a personal interest and involvement in the Looked After and Previously Looked After Children in the school.
- Challenge negative stereotypes of Looked After and Previously Looked After Children 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 Looked After and Previously Looked After Children and to ensure that the Assistant Headteacher attends regular training.

Governing Body

The Governing Body will appoint a designated senior leader for Looked After and Previously Looked After Children.

Designated Leader

The designated leader will:

- Be a champion for Looked After Children within the school and ensure that they are receiving special provision.
- Ensure that the Looked After Children are aware of who the designated leader is, and that the Assistant Headteacher's role is to support them here at Bishop Rawstorne.
- Ensure that teachers who need to know are aware of who are Looked After and Previously Looked After Children, and 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.
- Ensure Looked After and Previously Looked After Children 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.
- Ensure that the Pupil Premium Plus funding monies are spent appropriately for Looked After and Previously Looked After Children
- Ensure that all possible is being done to raise the achievement levels of Looked After and Previously Looked After Children:
 - the students are following an appropriate curriculum (and in year 8 or 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 academic targets show on at least a termly basis if a student is underachieving with monitored intervention strategies then being put into place;
 - the students are entered for examinations in all cases unless it is totally inappropriate;

- students on the Additional Educational Needs register receive all possible support to meet their needs;
 - able students have access to the School's Able, Gifted and Talented provision;
 - all possible support is given at times of transition (KS2 – KS3, KS3- KS4);
 - students are completing homework and controlled assessments on time and to a high standard and that intervention takes place if this is not the case.
- To ensure that Looked After and Previously Looked After Children receive a smooth induction into Bishop Rawstorne, with the obtaining of all relevant past history.
 - To keep comprehensive and up to date files on each Looked After student and to ensure that these are passed on should the student move school.
 - To ensure PEP and PEP Reviews occur on time and to play the lead educational role at these PEP meetings.
 - To meet with the Looked After Child to check progress and to listen to his/her views about both in School and out of School issues.
 - To check with staff on 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 and to report any concerns straightaway.
 - To draw up strategies for students who are not achieving, behaving poorly or not attending and then monitor the success of their implementation.
 - To ensure 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.
 - To encourage students to be fully involved in extra curricular and extension activities both in and outside school.
 - To ensure that students know there is someone they can approach if ever they have a problem or just want to talk.
 - To liaise with carers keeping them informed.
 - To be vigilant for any child protection issues and also to check carefully for any sign of a Looked After Child or Previously Looked After Child being bullied.
 - To ensure that the School Nurse is aware of the child's medical history and is liaising with the Looked After Children Health Support Team.
 - To liaise closely with other agencies as and when appropriate

Teachers

To be aware of Looked After and Previously Looked After Children 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.