

# Darwen St James' CE Primary Academy

**Darwen St James'**  
C of E Primary Academy



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

## **Mission Statement**

Nurturing ambition through a living faith.

## **Vision**

Our academy delivers a purposeful curriculum through its living Christian faith. We nurture ambition in all our learners in order for them to become positive citizens of tomorrow.

## **Bible**

Let us not love with words or speech alone but with actions and truth. John 3:18

Within this mission, our overriding value is love and nurture. Therefore we treat all children as individuals, striving to meet their specific needs whether educational, emotional or social, while giving them equal opportunities to grow and develop in all areas of their learning.

Looked after children (LAC) are those who are the subject of an interim or full care order, they may or may not be living with their birth parents or other family member and it may or may not be a voluntary arrangement. Previously Looked After Children (PLAC) are those who have been LAC and have been adopted / long term fostered; these children may be subject to a Special Guardianship Order (SGO). This category does not include children who have been returned to the care of their parents.

At Darwen St James' we work closely with a number of local authorities, including Blackburn with Darwen and Bolton and support them by playing an active role in the shared corporate parent responsibility.

Miss Peckson is the designated teacher for LAC / PLAC, supported by Ms Earp.

On behalf of the children, Miss Peckson and Ms Earp will:

- Ensure access to a safe and secure environment where education is valued and there is a strong belief in the abilities and potential of all children
  - Maintain an up to date record of LAC / PLAC including, status, placement type, social worker details, daily contact details, SEND status, CP details, baseline information, attendance, attainment and exclusions
- Attend, or ensure someone attends, all LAC reviews, PEP meetings and care planning meetings
- Have an efficient system in place to inform necessary staff of the status of a LAC / PLAC and work with the staff to address any problems. NB any such information is confidential and should be treated with due care and concern
  - Have an understanding of the specific challenges faced by LAC / PLAC and work with all stakeholders towards being a trauma and ACE informed school
  - Liaise with the child and the social worker to draw up a PEP, a Personal Educational Plan, (not necessary for PLAC) and if necessary use this to inform an IEP, Individual Education Plan, EHCP, Transition plan or pastoral support programme.
  - Work with the LAC / PLAC to arrive at a statement about their circumstances that they are

happy to share with others

- Ensure that pupil premium plus is applied for (using each authority's virtual school policy) and spent appropriately on the child concerned to maximize learning and development opportunities
- Work with our Administrative staff to ensure that daily Children's Social Care attendance checks (LAC only) will be completed securely without breach of GDPR or confidence and that SIMS information regarding status is up to date and available to appropriate agencies eg attendance
- Ensure that on transfer to another school all relevant information is handed over secure
- Monitor the progress of all LAC / PLAC and liaise with guardians and outside agencies regularly, this will include attending Case Conferences, reviews and core groups
- Strive to ensure that LAC / PLAC are not disadvantaged in any way because of their legal status and that they have equal access to all school activities, pastoral support and other opportunities
- Ensure that LAC / PLAC access all suitable interventions targeted specifically at them eg 1-1 tuition
- Keep up to date with training needs and opportunities for all staff including the designated lead and ensure training is cascaded to others
- Keep school up to date with the implications of current legislation, local policies on school and LAC / PLAC

There is a named governor for LAC / PLAC: currently Liz Riding who reports to the governing body on an annual basis with information including;

- The number of LAC / PLAC in the school. A comparison of test scores as a discrete group, compared with those of other pupils.
- The attendance of pupils as a discrete group, compared to other pupils.
- The level of fixed term/permanent exclusions.
- How the Pupil Premium for LAC / PLAC has been used.
- Pupil destinations.

The named governor will also ensure that our policies and procedures guarantee that LAC and PLAC have equal access to:

- The national curriculum
- Public Examinations
- Extra-Curricular Activities Additional Educational Support as appropriate

Responsibility for LAC / PLAC in school

All teachers involved with the child and any support staff directly involved should be aware of the child's status. The head teacher and / or the designated teacher are responsible for this and should decide if it is appropriate to share information with others eg cover supply staff.

Admission Arrangements

Records will be requested from the previous school on admission. A meeting will be held with social worker and carers and a home school agreement drawn up. Baseline information will be gathered and a PEP drawn up