

# LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN

## (LAC) POLICY

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| Related Policies / Guidance  | SS01 Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy<br>C01 Curriculum Policy<br>C03 SEND Policy |
| Review   | Annually  |
| Author   | Andrew Richardson-Rafey   |
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| <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Prosper Learning Trust</b><br/>is a Multi-Academy Trust<br/>Registered in England and Wales number 10872612<br/>Registered Office: Firbank Road, Manchester, M23 2YS</p> <p>The Prosper Learning Trust has several trust - wide policies which are adopted by all schools/academies in the Trust to ensure an equitable and consistent delivery of provision.</p> <p>The Trust Board has responsibility for the operation of all schools/academies and the outcomes of all students; however responsibility is delegated to the Local Governing Body of each school via the Scheme of Delegation.</p> <p>Within our policies reference to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Governing Body/Governors relates to the members of the Local Governing Body representing the Trust Board</li> <li>School includes a reference to school, academy or free school unless otherwise stated</li> <li>Headteacher includes a reference to Headteacher, Principle or Head of a School, academy or free school</li> </ul> |   |

## **STATEMENT OF INTENT**

Educational achievement and subsequent life chances for Looked After Children (LAC) and previously Looked After Children are of real concern.

Students who are looked after require special treatment and additional attention in order to improve their situation. Grange School endeavors to provide positive experiences and offer stability, safety, and individual care and attention for all our students.

### **WITH THIS IN MIND, WE AIM TO:**

- Encourage students to reach their potential and to make good progress in relation to their professional, social and emotional development.
- Ensure that students enjoy high quality teaching and a curriculum which meets their needs and the requirements of legislation.
- Plan support for LAC and previously-LAC realistically and use the school's resources efficiently to ensure the school meets their needs.
- Promote a positive culture in all aspects of school life.
- Help students develop their cultural, moral and social understanding.

### **DEFINITIONS;**

- "Looked after children (LAC)" are defined as:
- Children or young people who are the subject of a Care Order or Interim Care Order under the Children Act 1989.
- Children who are placed in foster care, children's residential homes, with relatives or friends, in semi-independent or supported independent accommodation.
- Children subject to a Care or Interim Care Order whilst placed with a parent, where the LA has parental responsibility.
- Children who are not subject to an order, but are accommodated by the LA under an agreement with their parents or respite care.

### **"PREVIOUSLY-LAC" ARE DEFINED AS:**

- Children who are no longer looked after by an LA in England and Wales because they have either been adopted or are the subject of an adoption, special guardianship or child arrangements order.

- Children who were adopted outside England and Wales from 'state care' (care that is provided by a public authority, religious organisation, or other organisation whose main purpose is to benefit society).

This policy has due regard to legislation and statutory guidance, including, but not limited to, the following:

Children Act 1989 [2004]

The Care Planning, Placement and Case Review (England) Regulations 2010 -

Children (Leaving Care) Act 2000

Children and Young Persons Act 2008

Children and Families Act 2014 Children and Social Work Act 2017

DfE (2018) 'Promoting the education of looked-after children and previously looked-after children'

DfE (2018) 'The designated teacher for looked-after and previously looked-after children'

DfE (2017) 'Exclusions from maintained schools, academies and student referral units in England'

DfE (2023) 'Keeping children safe in education'

DfE (2018) 'Working Together to Safeguard Children' Roles and responsibilities.

#### **THE LGB IS RESPONSIBLE FOR:**

- Ensuring the school has a coherent policy for LAC and previously-LAC.
- Reviewing the school's policies and procedures in conjunction with legislation and statutory guidance.
- Ensuring the designated teacher for LAC and previously-LAC has received the appropriate training.
- Ensuring that appropriate staff have the information they need in relation to each looked after child's:
- Legal status (i.e. whether they are looked after under voluntary arrangements with consent of parents or on an interim or full care order) and contact arrangements with birth parents or those with parental responsibility.
- Care arrangements and the levels of authority delegated to the carer by the LA.
- Ensuring that staff have the skills, knowledge and understanding to keep LAC and previously-LAC safe.

**THE HEADTEACHER IS RESPONSIBLE FOR:**

- Appointing the designated teacher for LAC and previously-LAC.
- Allowing the designated teacher the time and facilities to succeed in carrying out their duties.
- Overseeing this policy and monitoring its implementation, feeding back to the governing board annually on the following:
  - The number of LAC and previously-LAC in the school.
  - An analysis of assessment scores as a cohort, compared to other student groups.
  - The attendance of LAC and previously-LAC, compared to other student groups
  - The level of fixed term and permanent exclusions, compared to other student groups.
  - Ensuring all members of staff are aware that supporting LAC is a key priority.
  - Promoting the advantages of actively challenging negative stereotypes of LAC.

**THE DESIGNATED TEACHER FOR LAC AND PREVIOUSLY-LAC IS RESPONSIBLE FOR:**

- Building relationships with health, education and social care partners and other partners so that they and the VSH understand the support available to LAC and previously-LAC.
- Promoting the educational achievement of LAC and previously-LAC at the school; this includes those that left care through adoption, special guardianship or child arrangement orders or were adopted from state care outside England and Wales.
- Acting as the main contact for social services and the DfE. • Promoting a culture of high expectations and aspirations.
- Leading on how the child's PEP is developed and used in school to ensure the child's progress towards targets is monitored.
- Working with the child's VSH and social worker to develop and implement their PEP.
- Working with the headteacher to submit an annual report to the governing board, which details the progress of all LAC and previously-LAC.

**THE DSL IS RESPONSIBLE FOR:**

- Keeping up-to-date records of LAC's respective social worker and VSH.
- Where a child ceases to be looked after and becomes a care leaver, keeping up-to-date contact details of their LA personal advisor and liaising with the advisor as necessary regarding any issues of concern affecting the care leaver.

### **THE HEAD OF DEPARTMENT IS RESPONSIBLE FOR:**

- Ensuring they are involved in reviewing PEP and care plans for LAC and previously-LAC.
- Liaising with the class teacher, designated teacher, specialists and parents when considering interventions to support the progress of previously-LAC.
- Staff are responsible for:
- Being aware of LAC and previously-LAC and providing them with support and encouragement. Preserving confidentiality, where appropriate, and showing sensitivity and understanding.
- Being vigilant for any signs of bullying towards LAC and previously-LAC.
- Promoting the self-esteem of LAC and previously-LAC.
- Being inclusive with all on-site and off-site activities.

### **PEP**

All LAC must have a care plan; PEPs are an integral part of this care plan.

- The PEP is an evolving record of what needs to happen for a student to enable them to make the expected progress and fulfil their potential.
- The PEP will reflect the importance of a personalised approach to learning which meets the identified educational needs of the child.
- The school with other professionals and the child's carers will use the PEP to support the child's educational needs, raise the child's aspirations and improve their life chances.
- All relevant bodies, such as the LA, the designated teacher and carers, will involve the child in the PEP process at all stages.

The PEP will address the student's full range of education and development needs, including:

- Access to the appropriate provision
- On-going catch-up support, which will be made available for children who have fallen behind with work. Suitable education provided by the LA, where the child is not in school because of suspension or exclusion.
- Transitional support where needed, such as if a child is moving to a new school.
- School attendance and behaviour support, where appropriate.
- Support to help the child meet their aspirations, which includes: Support to achieve expected levels of progress.
- Careers curriculum that focusses on the child's strengths, capabilities and the outcomes they want to achieve.
- Out-of-school hours learning activities, study support and leisure interests.
- Working with agencies and the VSH

- The school will ensure that copies of all relevant reports are forwarded to the LAC social workers, in addition to carers or residential social workers.
- The school will coordinate their review meetings.
- The school will work with other agencies to exchange information, such as changes in circumstances, exclusions or attendance issues, taking prompt action, where necessary, to safeguard LAC and previously-LAC.
- The designated teacher for LAC and previously-LAC will communicate with the VSH and child's social worker to facilitate the completion of the PEP.
- Through the designated teacher, the school will work with the VSH, social worker and other relevant agencies to monitor any arrangements in place so that actions and activities recorded in the child's PEP are implemented without delay.
- The designated teacher will communicate with the VSH and agree on how student premium plus (PP+) can be used effectively to accommodate the child's educational attainment and progress.
- PP+ for previously-LAC will be allocated directly to, and managed by, the school.
- The school will work with the VSH to manage allocation of PP+ for the benefit of our cohort of LAC, or previously-LAC, and according to their needs.
- The designated teacher will ensure consistent and strong communication with the VSH regarding LAC who are absent without authorisation.
- The school will share their expertise on what works in supporting the education of LAC and previously-LAC.

## **TRAINING**

The designated teacher and other school staff involved in the education of LAC and previously-LAC have received the appropriate training, this includes information about the following:

- School admissions arrangements
- SEND
- Attendance
- Exclusions
- Managing and challenging behaviour
- Promoting positive educational and recreational activities
  - Supporting students to be aspirational for their future
  - Safeguarding Exclusions Past experiences of LAC and previously-LAC will be considered when designing and implementing the school's Behaviour Support Policy.

The school will have regard to the DfE's statutory guidance 'Exclusions from maintained schools, academies and student referral units in England' and, as far as

possible, avoid excluding any LAC. Where the school has concerns about a child's behaviour, the VSH will be informed at the earliest opportunity. Exclusion will only be used as a last resort, after the school and VSH have considered what additional support can be provided to prevent exclusion, and any additional arrangements to support the student's education in the event of exclusion. The school will inform parents that they can seek the advice of the VSH on strategies to support their child to avoid exclusion.

### **SOURCES OF ADDITIONAL ADVICE AND INFORMATION**

Jane Johnson - Virtual School Head Teacher

Lynn Girvan - Virtual School Deputy Head

Ed Salmon - Virtual School Lead for Post 16

Richard Smith - Virtual School Data and Information Manager

Janet Newell - Business Support Lead

The Manchester Virtual School  
Directorate for Children and Families  
Level 4  
PO Box 532  
Town Hall Extension  
Manchester  
M60 2LA  
Internal: 34160 / 36913  
Office: 0161 234 4160 / 219 6913