



Looked After and Previously Looked After Children Policy

Revisions Log

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Approving Body	Headteacher
Document Author	Chris Leigh (DTLAC)

Date	Pages/Whole Document	Description of Change	Origin of Change (e.g. Routine Update, request for Review)

Designated Teacher for Looked After Children (DTLAC)	LAC Key Worker	LAC Governor
Chris Leigh	Jane Murphy	Deborah Nicholl-Timmins

Introduction

The governing body of Edleston Primary 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 children in residential and foster care, when compared with their peers, and is committed to implementing the principles and practice, as outlined in “Guidance on the Education of Looked After Children” (May 2000) and Section 52 of the Children Act 2004.

Definition Looked After Children

A **looked-after child (LAC)** is a young person who is legally cared for by a local authority under the Children Act 1989. This designation carries significant **legal, procedural, and safeguarding responsibilities** for professionals working in children’s homes. Understanding the definition, status, and implications of LAC status is essential for effective care, partnership working, and regulatory compliance in residential settings.

Definition of Previous Looked After Children

Previously looked-after children are those who 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 they were adopted from ‘state care’ outside England and Wales.

Supporting Looked After and Previous Looked After Children

Knutsford Academy recognises that as with all our students, we want LAC and PLAC students to belong, thrive and achieve. Our approach to supporting the educational achievement of LAC and PLAC students is based on the following key principles:

- Prioritising education
- Promoting attendance

- Targeting support
- Having high expectations
- Promoting inclusion
- Raising aspiration
- Early intervention and priority action
- Listening to children
- Working in partnership with carers, social workers and other professionals

Roles and Responsibilities

The Designated Teacher will act as an advocate for LAC and PLAC students. When any LAC/PLAC student transfers to the school they should take responsibility to ensure that the process is smooth and provides levels of adult support within the school.

Whilst the DTLAC has overall responsibility for LAC and PLAC students in the school the day-to-day management of will normally lie with the LAC Key Worker and other key adults within the school.

The DTLAC will ensure that :

- A Personal Education Plan (PEP) is completed in a timely manner.
- Each LAC has an identified member of staff with whom they can liaise. This will normally be their Key Worker but could be a responsibility devolved to other members of staff as appropriate.
- Support is co-ordinated for the child in the school and liaise with other professionals and carers as necessary.
- Staff receive relevant information and training and act as an advisor to staff and governors.
- Written information is provided to assist planning/review meetings and ensure attendance as far as possible.
- The family receive notification of meetings, parents evenings and other events and that communication remains regular and positive.
- The student is encouraged to participate in extra-curricular activities and out of hours learning, where feasible.
- They seek urgent support and meetings with relevant parties where the young person is experiencing difficulties and/or is in danger of being permanently excluded.

Governors

The link governor will :

- Be aware of LAC and PLAC students within the school.
- Ensure that there is a named Designated Teacher for Looked After Children
- Ensure that the Designated Teacher is able to carry out their responsibilities in relation to Looked After Children

Training

The DTLAC will annually complete their training with the local authority and were appropriate cascade this down to other staff.

Personal Education Plan (PEP)

The school will work in tandem with the local authority through the Key Worker to ensure that the PEP is relevant and completed in a timely manner (see Appendix 1). Where appropriate information from the PEP will be shared with staff.

Links with other Policies

This policy should not be viewed in isolation and should only be viewed alongside the following policies :

- Behaviour Policy
- Safeguarding Policy
- Bullying Policy
- Safeguarding Policy
- Attendance Policy

NB - In Cheshire East, our young people have asked for the term 'Cared for Children' [CFC] to be used rather than Looked after children [LAC] so this term is more often heard/used within our local authority. However, within the body of this policy, the nationally recognised LAC term is used.

Appendix 1 : Cheshire East PEP Plan Cycle

Personal Education Plan Cycle



