

LAC POLICY

ST. LUKE & ST. PHILIP'S PRIMARY, A CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY



VISION STATEMENT

'The family of St Luke and St Philip's will ensure excellence is encouraged, minds are opened, diversity is embraced, respect is expected and talents are nurtured under the umbrella of God's love.'

ETHOS

Our school provides grounding in the Christian Faith for all its children with emphasis on collective worship as part of its daily life. Our Christian values of trust, truth, love, peace and thankfulness are built into the ethos and teaching of our school with the support of all Governors and staff for its Christian foundation. We also seek to encourage an understanding and respect for other world faiths.

CHRISTIAN SCHOOL VALUES



Designated Teacher: Tracey Etchells
Battersby

Designated Governor: Michelle

Nationally, Looked After Children significantly underachieve and are at greater risk of exclusion compared with their peers. We believe that St Luke & St Philip's School has a major part to play in ensuring that Looked After Children are exceptionally well prepared for the next steps in their lives. We aim to provide them with the knowledge and skills they need to be successful, enthusiastic learners and responsible individuals by providing a positive, safe and stimulating environment where all are included and achievements are celebrated.

St Luke & St Philip's School believes that, in partnership with Blackburn with Darwen Council as Corporate Parents, we have a special duty to safeguard and promote the education of Looked After Children.

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 Looked After Children (PLAC) 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).
- Children with a social worker are defined as:

- Children who have been assessed as needing or previously needing a social worker within the past 6 years due to safeguarding or welfare reasons under section 17 of the Children Act 1989. Children in kinship care are defined as:
- Children living in informal arrangements made by their birth parents with a close relative, or by default, for example because their birth parent has died or abandoned them.
- Children looked after by the local authority and placed with kinship foster carers.
- Children living in arrangements which are due to lead to adoption by a relative or friend.
- Children living with testamentary guardians when a parent has died. They may be on a Child Arrangement Order or Special Guardianship Order granted by the court. LAC reviews, involving the school, will take place up until an adoption order has been granted. However, Pupil Premium Plus funding will continue for LAC until they are 16 years old. As stated in Keeping Children Safe in Education 2025, Virtual School Heads have a statutory responsibility for Looked After Children and Previously Looked After Children, and a non-statutory responsibility for promoting the educational outcomes of children with a social worker and children in kinship care. The school works with the Virtual School Head in supporting these children.

Our statement of intent

To provide a safe and secure environment, where education is valued and there is a belief in the abilities and potential of all children.

To support our looked after children and give them access to every opportunity to achieve their potential, enjoy learning and take as full a part as possible in all school activities.

To ensure that school policies and procedures are followed for LAC as for all children.

To work with the Virtual School and ensure that carers and social workers of LAC pupils are kept fully informed of their child's progress and attainment.

To fulfil our school's role as Corporate Parents to promote and support the education of our Looked After Children, by asking the question, '**Would this be good enough for my child?**'

Our school's approach to supporting the educational achievement of Looked After Children is based on the following principles:

- Prioritising education
- Promoting attendance
- Targeting support
- Having high expectations

- Promoting inclusion
- Raising aspiration
- Achieving stability and continuity
- Early intervention and priority action
- Listening to children
- Promoting health and well-being
- Reducing exclusions and promoting stability
- Working in partnership with carers, social workers and other professionals

Inclusion

Inclusion is central to our approach to supporting children who are looked after. We are committed to ensuring that every child feels safe, valued, and fully part of our school community, regardless of their background or circumstances. We recognise that looked after children may face additional challenges, and we respond with sensitivity, high expectations, and tailored support to meet their individual needs. Through strong relationships, consistent routines, and a nurturing environment, we aim to remove barriers to learning and participation. We work closely with carers, social workers, and external professionals to ensure a coordinated approach, enabling each child to thrive both academically and personally.

In pursuit of this policy we will

- Nominate a Designated Teacher for Looked After Children who will act as their advocate and coordinate support for them.
- Nominate a school governor to ensure that the needs of Looked After Children in the school are taken into account at a school management level and to support the Designated Teacher.
- Support the Designated Teacher in carrying out their role by making time available and ensuring that they attend training on Looked After Children.
- Work closely with the Virtual School and Social Care in the best interests of LAC and in completion of the Personal Education Plan (PEP).

Policy reviewed: 20/10/2026

Policy reviewed by : Tracey Etchells

Next review date: 20/10/2027