



Our Lady and St Chad Catholic Academy



LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN (LAC) POLICY



We will work and learn through faith, prayer and trust in God.

We will be guided by the teaching of his Son Jesus Christ and the Church, in a school where, as we live in communion, we are empowered to respect ourselves and one another.

We will build a community where all have the confidence to make the choices which will enable us to become the best we can be. We will work to treasure creation with wisdom and wonder.

This policy was ratified by the Governing Body
on.....

Signed.....

Chair of Governors

1.0 Definition

- 1.1 Under the Children Act 1989, a child is 'looked after' by a local authority if he or she is in their care or provided with accommodation for more than 24 hours by the authority.
- 1.2 They fall into four main groups:
- children who are accommodated under a voluntary agreement with their parents (section 20)
 - children who are the subjects of a care order (section 31) or interim care order (section 38)
 - children who are the subjects of emergency orders for their protection (sections 44 and 46)
 - children who are compulsorily accommodated – this includes children remanded to the local authority or subject to a criminal justice supervision order with a residence requirement (section 21).
- 1.3 The term 'In Care' refers only to children who are subject to a care order by the Court under Section 31 of the Children Act 1989 - they may live with Foster Carers, in a Children's Home, in a Residential School, with relatives or with parents under supervision.
- 1.4 Children who are cared for on a voluntary basis are 'accommodated' by the local authority under Section 20 of the Children Act – they may live in foster care, in a children's home or in a residential school.

All these groups are said to be 'Looked After Children' (LAC). They may be looked after by Wolverhampton Local Authority or may be in the care of another authority but living in Wolverhampton.

2.0 Aims and Objectives

- 2.1 The governing Body, Headteacher and teaching staff at Our Lady & St Chad Catholic Academy will ensure that the necessary provision is made for any student who is Looked After
- 2.2 The aims of the school are to:
- ensure that school policies and procedures are followed for Looked After Children as for all children
 - ensure that all Looked After Children have access to a broad and balanced curriculum
 - provide a differentiated curriculum appropriate to the individual's needs and ability
 - ensure that Looked After students take as full a part as possible in school activities
 - ensure that carers and social workers of LAC are kept fully informed of their child's progress and attainment
 - ensure that Looked After students are involved, where practicable, in decisions affecting their future provision.
- 2.2 To promote the educational achievement and welfare of Looked After Children we will:
- ensure that the needs of Looked After Children are considered through all relevant School policies
 - make sure that all staff have continuously updated CPD and are aware of what constitutes effective practice in meeting the needs of LAC.
 - take responsibility for the induction of Looked After Children
 - establish and maintain appropriate information sharing systems with staff that maintains a level of confidentiality.
 - monitor the progress and attendance of Looked After Children
 - facilitate the inclusion of Looked After Children
 - attend Statutory Reviews of Looked After Children twice a year, or to provide school information to the review in the case of non-attendance
 - contribute to the writing and review of the child's Personal Education Plan

3.0 Responsible Persons

- 3.1 The governing body is committed to providing a quality education for all students based on equality of access, opportunity and outcomes.
- 3.2 The Governor responsible for LAC is Mrs. M. Benton who will:
- ensure that the needs of LAC are considered through all decisions made at Governor Level in relation to School development and review.

- be committed to continuously updating their own CPD in relation to LAC
- meet with the Designated Teacher to discuss the progress of LAC

3.3 Principal - Miss T. Ellis. The Principal has responsibility for the day to day management of all aspects of the school's work, including provision for children with SEN. The Principal will inform the Governing body and liaise closely with the Designated Teacher for LAC. LAC are identified as a vulnerable group when tracking, monitoring and reporting on attainment and progress.

2.3 The Designated Teacher for LAC is Mrs. R. Coombs. Part of the Designated Teacher's role is to raise awareness of issues associated with LAC within the school and disseminate information

2.4 The Head of Wolverhampton Virtual School is Mr. D. Martindale

3.0 Admissions and Inclusion

3.1 The Governing Body endorses the Wolverhampton City Council Policy for the admission of Looked After Children. Due to changes in care placements, Looked After Children may enter school at any time in the term. We believe that it is vital that we give each Looked After Child a positive welcome and full support for their induction to help them settle and be part of our learning community.

3.2 Looked After Children will be offered the level of support and Induction at the KS2-3 transition that meets their individual needs. The Designated Teacher for Looked After Children will act upon the information collated by the Year 7 Guidance Leader, in order to prepare the pupil for transfer. Such support may include additional visits to the home school, a meeting with the carers, additional preliminary visits to Our Lady and St Chad's, attendance to CAMHS therapy sessions and intensive support from the Assistant Guidance Leader for Year 7 – Mrs. R. Ray.

3.3 Should a Child in Care need to move before the end of their education, information will be shared promptly and efficiently with the new services involved.

3.4 This policy recognises that all students are entitled to a balanced, broadly based curriculum. Our LAC Policy reinforces the need for teaching and learning which is fully inclusive. The Governing Body will ensure the school makes appropriate provision for all Looked After students.

4.0 Allocation of Resources

4.1 The Governing Body will ensure that the school allocates resources to support appropriate provision for LAC, meeting the objectives set out in this policy. We will work in partnership with Wolverhampton Virtual School for Looked After Children and other Virtual Schools for students who are from other Local Authorities, to ensure that they receive the full range of support to which they are entitled to enable them to make progress and achieve.

5.0 Monitoring the progress of Looked After Children

5.1 The social worker for the Looked After Child initiates a Personal Education Plan – PEP - within 20 days of the student joining the school, or of entering care, and ensures that the young person is actively involved.

5.2 Following the initial PEP, the role of the Designated Teacher is to liaise with other agencies involved to monitor the progress of each LAC and put appropriate interventions in place if required

6.0 Record Keeping

6.1 The Designated Teacher knows all the Looked After Children in school and has access to their relevant contact details including parents, carers, Sunderland Virtual School specialist staff, teacher/support worker and social worker. The status of Looked After Children is identified within the school's information systems so that information is readily available to all classroom teachers and relevant associate staff.

7.0 Liaison

- 7.1 Partnership with parents/carers and social care - The school believe in developing strong partnerships with parents/carers and care workers to enable LAC to achieve their potential to aid their future economic well-being. Review meetings are an opportunity to further this collaboration and partnership working.
- 7.2 Links with external agencies/organisations - we recognise the important contribution that external support services make in supporting LAC. Colleagues from the following support services may be involved with individual LAC:
- Social care worker/ Community care worker/ Residential child care worker
 - Wolverhampton Virtual School for Looked After Children (Looked After Children in Education Team, LACE)
 - Other Virtual Schools for looked after children from other Local Authorities
 - Educational psychologists and others from Local Authority SEN services
 - Medical officers
 - School nurses
 - CAMHS
 - Education Welfare Officers
 - Youth Offending Service

8.0 LAC Policy Review and Evaluation

- 8.1 The Designated Teacher for LAC will undertake a thorough review and evaluation of the impact of the Looked After Children Policy and report to the Governing Body.
- 8.2 The Designated Teacher will:
- be an advocate for Looked After Children within school
 - be proactive in identifying ways in which the school can raise attainment of LAC
 - work in partnership with Wolverhampton Virtual School, and/or other Virtual Schools for those students who are from other Local Authorities, providing data on the progress of LAC
 - give regard to the impact of relevant decisions for Looked After Children on both the LAC and the rest of the school community
 - know all the LAC in school, including those in the care of other authorities
 - attend relevant training about LAC and disseminate information and good practice to other staff
 - act as the key liaison professional for other agencies and Carers in relation to LAC seeking advice from Wolverhampton Virtual School, and/or other Virtual Schools for those students from other Local Authorities, when appropriate.
 - ensure that all LAC have an appropriate PEP that is completed within 20 days of joining the school or of entering care and ensure that the young person contributes to the plan
 - contribute to PEP and LAC Review meetings
 - monitor the targets set out in the PEP
 - convene an urgent multi-agency meeting if a Looked After Children is experiencing difficulties or is at risk of exclusion
 - ensure that any Special Educational Needs are addressed in conjunction with the SENCO and in accordance with the Code of Practice for SEN.
- 8.3 All school staff will:
- positively promote the raising of a LAC's self esteem.
 - have high expectations of the educational and personal achievements of LAC
 - keep the Designated Teacher informed about a LAC's progress.
 - ensure any LAC is supported sensitively and that confidentiality is maintained.
 - be familiar with the school's policy and guidance on LAC and respond appropriately to requests for information to support PEPs and review meetings.
 - liaise with the Designated Teacher where a Looked After Children is experiencing difficulties
 - keep appropriate records, confidentially as necessary, and make these available to the Designated Teacher
- 8.4 The Governing Body will:

- ensure that the admission criteria and practice prioritises Looked After Children according to the DFE Admissions Code of Practice
- ensure all governors are fully aware of the legal requirements and guidance for LAC
- ensure there is a Designated Teacher for LAC
- nominate a governor with responsibility for LAC who links with the Designated Teacher
- ensure that the school's policies and procedures give Looked After Children equal access in respect of:
 - admission to school
 - National Curriculum and examinations, both academic and vocational
 - out of school learning and extra curricular activities
 - additional educational support
 - work experience and careers guidance.
 - annually review the effective implementation of the school policy for LAC
 - In the event of an exclusion, ensure that the Designated Teacher is invited to the exclusion meeting of the LAC

Policy created by R. Coombs

July 2015