

St. John Bosco RC Primary School



Policy for Looked After Children

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INTRODUCTION

Looked After Children significantly underachieve and are at greater risk of exclusion compared with their peers. Schools have a major part to play in ensuring that Looked After Children are enabled to be healthy, stay safe, enjoy, achieve, make a positive contribution to society and achieve economic well being, in line with Every Child Matters.

The provision of Pupil Premium funding since 2012 ensures that we have a responsibility to narrow the achievement gap between Looked After Children and their peers and one of the responsibilities of the Designated Teacher is to ensure this funding is used appropriately. Helping Looked After Children succeed and providing a better future for them is a key priority for Sunderland LA and its schools.

This policy takes account of:

- *The Council's duty under Section 52 of the Children Act 2004 to promote the educational achievement of Looked After Children (LAC).*
- *The Education (Admission of Looked After Children)(England) Regulations 2006.*
- *Relevant DfE guidance to Governing Bodies (Supporting Looked After Learners: A Practical Guide For School Governors).*

St. John Bosco RC Primary 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 through challenging and changing attitudes.*
- *Achieving stability and continuity.*
- *Early intervention and priority action.*
- *Listening to children.*
- *Promoting health and wellbeing.*
- *Reducing exclusions and promoting stability.*
- *Working in partnership with carers, social workers and other professionals.*

IMPLICATIONS

As for all our pupils, St. John Bosco School is committed to helping every Looked After Child to achieve the highest standards they can, including supporting aspirations to achieve in further and higher education. This can be measured by improvement in their achievement and attendance.

The governing Body of St. St. John Bosco School is committed to providing quality education for all pupils and will:

- *Ensure Looked After Children are prioritised in the school's Admissions criteria, in line with the Education (Admissions of Looked After Children) (England) Regulations 2006. (Theses require admission authorities to give top priority for admission to LAC in their oversubscription criteria. Faith schools must give priority to LAC of their faith ahead of other applicants, and are permitted to give priority to all LAC, regardless of faith.)*
- *Ensure a Designated Teacher for Looked After Children is identified and enabled to carry out the responsibilities set out below.*
- *Ensure a Personal Education Plan (PEP) is put into place, implemented and regularly reviewed for every Looked After Child.*
- *Identify a governor as Designated Governor for Looked After Children.*

This policy links with a number of other school policies and it is important that Governors have regard to the needs of Looked After Children when revising them:

- *Admissions Policy.*
- *Code of Conduct.*
- *Behaviour Policy.*

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- *Discipline Policy*
- *Home School Agreement.*
- *Anti-bullying Policy.*
- *Equal Opportunities Policy.*
- *Racial Equality Policy*
- *Child Protection Policy.*
- *Special Educational Needs Policy.*

St. John Bosco School will champion the needs of Looked After Children, raise awareness and challenge negative stereotypes about them, in order to ensure that they achieve to the highest level possible.

RESPONSIBILITY OF THE HEADTEACHER

- Identify a Designated Teacher for Looked After Children. It is essential that another appropriate person is identified quickly should the Designated Teacher leave the school or take sick leave.
- Ensure that procedures are in place to monitor the admission, progress, attendance and any exclusions of Looked After Children and take action where progress, conduct or attendance is below expectations.
- Report on the progress, attendance and conduct of Looked After Children to OFSTED.
- Ensure that staff in school receives relevant training and are aware of their responsibilities under this policy and related guidance.

RESPONSIBILITY OF THE GOVERNING BODY

- Identify a nominated Governor for Looked After Children.
- Ensure that all Governors are fully aware of the legal requirements and guidance on the education of Looked After Children. Ensure the school has an overview of the needs and progress of Looked after Children.
- Ensure the school's other policies and procedures support their needs.

PROCEDURES:

The Governing Body will:

- Monitor the academic progress of Looked After Children, through an annual report (see below).
- Ensure that Looked After Children are given top priority when applying for places in accordance with the school's Admissions Criteria.
- Work to prevent exclusions and reduce time out of school, by ensuring the school implements policies and procedures to ensure Looked After Children achieve and enjoy their time at the school, by recognising the extra problems caused by excluding them and by not excluding them except as a last resort.
- Ensure that the school has a Designated Teacher, and that the Designated Teacher is enabled to carry out his or her responsibilities as below.
- Support the Head teacher, the Designated Teacher and other staff ensuring that the needs of Looked after Children are recognised and met.
- Receive a report once a year setting out:
 1. *The number of Looked After Children on the schools roll.*
 2. *Their attendance, as a discreet group, compared with other pupils.*
 3. *Their academic progress.*
 4. *The number of fixed term and permanent exclusion.*
 5. *The destinations of pupils who leave the school.*
 6. *The information for this report should be collected and reported in ways that preserve the anonymity and respect the confidentiality of the pupils concerned.*

Our current LAC governor is:

THE ROLE OF THE DESIGNATED TEACHER

Government Guidance says that the Designated Teacher should be "someone with sufficient authority to make things happen ... who should be an advocate for Looked After Children, assessing services and support, ensuring that the school shares and supports high expectations for them."

Governors should be aware that all schools are already required to have a designated teacher for LAC. It is strongly recommended that this person should be a member of the Senior Leadership Team. Governors should be aware that OFSTED will focus on Looked After Children, monitoring how the school has promoted their inclusion and attainment and the effectiveness of joint working with other services involved with them.

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Our Designated Teacher will:

- Ensure a welcome and smooth induction for the child and their carer, using the Personal Education Plan to plan for that transition in consultation with the child's social worker.
- Ensure that the Personal Education Plan is completed with the child, the social worker, and foster carer and any other relevant people twice a year.
- Ensure that Pupil Premium funding is appropriately administered to narrow the achievement gap between Looked After Children and their peers.
- Ensure that each LAC has an identified member of staff that they can talk to. This need not be the Designated Teacher, but should be based on the child's own wishes. (Members of staff taking on this role need to be aware of any child protection issues and work closely with the Designated Teacher for Child Protection).
- Track academic progress and target support appropriately. Academic progress will be monitored termly through the target setting procedure and through review process if on the SEN register.
- Co-ordinate any support for the LAC that is necessary within school.
- Ensure confidentiality for individual pupils, sharing personal information on a need to know basis.
- Encourage LAC to join in extra-curricular activities and out of school learning.
- Ensure, as far as possible, attendance at planning and review meetings.
- Set up timely meetings with relevant parties where the pupil is experiencing difficulties in school or at risk of exclusion.
- Ensure the speedy transfer of information between individuals, agencies and new schools.
- Be pro-active in supporting transition and planning when moving to a new phase in education. • Promote inclusion in all areas of school life.
- Ensure that attendance data is returned to LA, LAC Education Adviser every term.

Our designated teacher is: Mrs D. Prayle

THE RESPONSIBILITY OF ALL STAFF

All of our staff will:

- Have high expectations for the educational and personal achievement of Looked After Children, as for all pupils.
- Maintain Looked After Children's confidentiality and ensure they are supported sensitively.
- Respond positively to a pupil's request to be the named member of staff whom they can talk to when they feel it is necessary.
- Respond promptly to the Designated Teacher's request for information.
- Work to enable Looked After Children to achieve stability and success within school.
- Promote the self-esteem of all Looked After Children.
- Have an understanding of the key issues that affect the learning of Looked After Children.
- Be aware that 60% of Looked After Children say they are bullied so work to prevent bullying in line with our anti-bullying policy.

Signed: _____

Designation: _____

Date: _____

Review Date: _____