



SS. Osmund & Andrew's RCP School

Looked After Children Policy

***Together in Love, Growing in Faith, A Journey of Hope.
Together in Love, Faith and Hope.***

Mission Statement

Together in Love, Growing in Faith, A Journey of Hope. Together in Love, Faith and Hope.

SS Osmund and Andrew's governing body is committed to providing quality education for all its pupils based on equality of access, opportunity and outcomes. This policy pays due regard to the guidance set out in '*Promoting the Education of Looked After Children*' (2014)

Definition

The term "looked after" was introduced by the Children Act 1989. This refers to a child who is looked after

by the local authority if he or she is in their care for more than 23 hours. They fall into four main groups:

- Children who are accommodated under a voluntary agreement with their parents
- Children who are the subject of a care order or interim care order
- Children who are the subject of emergency orders for their protection
- Children who are compulsory accommodated – this includes children remanded to the local authority or subject to a criminal justice supervision order with a residence requirement

Legal Framework

Recent legislation and guidance from the Department for Education (DFE) and the Department of Health

(DH) requires schools to have effective policies for supporting and promoting the education of looked after children.

Schools must:

- Ensure access to a balanced and broadly-based education for all looked after children
- Prioritise recording and improving the academic achievement of all looked after children
- Prioritise a reduction in the number of exclusions and trancies for all looked after children
- Ensure there is a designated teacher to advocate for the rights of looked after children
- Develop systems of communications and protocols
- Promote the attendance of looked after children

We will aim to:

- Work alongside social workers to ensure that each looked after child has a current Personal Education Plan in place
- Provide a climate of acceptance and challenge negative stereotypes

- Ensure all children who are looked after have the same opportunities to participate fully in the National Curriculum, careers guidance, extra-curricular activities and enjoy the school experience fully in line with corporate parenting principles
- Ensure discretion when addressing a child's care status and ensure there is sensitivity to the
- background of children who are looked after, especially surrounding work and family
- Ensure the designated teacher is provided with regular training, and that they cascade this training to school staff as appropriate
- Ensure that a clear protocol for sharing of information will be followed both within school and with outside agencies
- Endeavour to support all looked after children educated in this school to achieve to their fullest possible academic potential

[SS Osmund & Andrews RCPS](#)

Roles and Responsibilities

The named Governor will work in co-operation with the Head Teacher and Designated Teacher as the named staff responsible for ensuring that all looked after children have equal access to all learning opportunities in line with their peers. The Head Teacher and Designated Teacher also have specific responsibilities for supporting the rest of the staff in their training and work with looked after children.

The named Governor should be satisfied that:

- The school has a coherent policy for looked after children
- The school's policies and procedures are reviewed in the light of social inclusion guidance and DFE guidelines
- The designated teacher has received appropriate training
- Looked after children have equal access to all areas of the curriculum
- The Governing body receives an annual report

The Head Teacher will:

- Appoint the designated teacher
- Ensure that the designated teacher has received appropriate training
- Oversee the development of the policy on looked after children
- Be responsible for all systems to support looked after children

The Designated Teacher

The designated teacher will serve as the contact for social services and the education department and will maintain responsibility for several key areas to support looked after children within the school. This includes serving as an advocate for all looked after children in the school. The designated teacher will help establish and maintain the ethos regarding looked after children of the school by:

- maintaining and respecting the confidentiality of all looked after children and ensuring information is shared on a strictly 'need to know' basis
- ensuring that all staff, through appropriate training, are aware of the difficulties and educational disadvantages faced by looked after children and understand the need for positive systems to support them, whilst maintaining appropriately high expectations for their educational achievements
- acting as an advocate for looked after children in order to allow them equal access to educational opportunities and support with important decisions affecting future life chances

The designated teacher will set up systems to monitor and record the progress of all looked after children. S/he will:

- have an overview and co-ordinating role for gathering and holding all information regarding children who are looked after ☐ maintain records regarding all looked after children, including legal status and information regarding who should be contacted regarding matters concerning the child
- establish a system for contacting and forwarding educational records to new schools to facilitate a smooth and speedy transfer
- monitor the educational progress of all looked after children and intervene, in co-operation with other agencies if required, if there is evidence of underachievement, absence from school or internal truancy, or other similar concern

The designated teacher will facilitate effective communication by:

- building positive home-school relationships between parents/carers with regular opportunities for dialogue
- being proactive and participating in setting goals for the child's PEP
- playing an active role in care planning by ensuring that the attendance of the most appropriate member of staff and/or written reports are provided to all statutory reviews of looked after children
- helping co-ordinate education and PEP meetings
- serving as the named contact for colleagues in social services and education
- ensuring effective communication between all relevant parties
- inviting the responsible social worker to all meetings, and liaising with this social worker regarding the development of Personal Education Plans (PEP).

The designated teacher will monitor each child's achievement and ensure that they have the support they require within school:

- by ensuring each child has a Personal Education Plan
- by requesting support from the SENCO and/or outside agencies, including the Education of children
- Looked After Service, if a looked after child requires additional academic or behaviour support

- by working closely with the SENCO to ensure all looked after children with special educational needs
- are being assessed and are getting appropriate resources to support their learning
- by having a strategy for key stage or new school transitions
- by ensuring all looked after children are made to feel a part of the school environment

Personal Education Plans

Each child will have a Personal Education Plan (PEP), which their social worker will take the lead in developing. However, the school's role in this plan is crucial and at least one member of staff who knows the child well will attend the meeting to establish and subsequently review this. Other staff will contribute in writing as appropriate.

The PEP will consider:

- the child's strengths and weaknesses
- interests, both in and out of school
- developmental and educational and pastoral needs
- future plans, and how these can be supported
- issues arising for the child
- identify targets that will be reviewed during the next PEP meeting.

Admission Arrangements

Looked after children are a priority for admission and, as such, we will follow the LA's/Diocese published admission criteria.

The Designated Teacher at SS Osmund and Andrew's is Mr Graves

The Designated governor at SS Osmund and Andrew's is Mrs Sarah George

Reviewed Autumn 2023