

LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN POLICY

- Be healthy
- Stay safe
- Enjoy and achieve
- Make a positive contribution
- Achieve economic well-being

Who are Looked After Children?

Children and young people become 'Looked After' either if they have been taken into Care by the local authority, or have been accommodated by the local authority (a voluntary care arrangement). Most LAC will be living in foster homes but a small number may be in a children's home, living with a relative or even be placed back at home with their natural parent(s).

Rationale

In our school aims we state that we will value and respect ourselves and others. Therefore we believe that our school should provide a caring, positive, safe and stimulating environment which promotes the social, spiritual, physical and moral development of the individual child. The Children's Act 2004 places a duty to safeguard "Looked After Children", to promote their educational achievements and to ensure that they are able to 'achieve to and reach their full potential' making the most of their God-given talents.

Aims

1. To support the child's development in ways that will foster security, confidence and independence in order that they are able to approach adults when they are in difficulties believing they will be listened to.
2. To raise the awareness of all staff of the need to safeguard children and in particular of their responsibilities in identifying possible cases of abuse or exclusion from our community.
3. To provide a systematic means of monitoring LAC children, continuing to have high expectations and offering early intervention to aid their academic progress
4. To develop effective working relationships with parents, carers, parishes and other agencies to maintain a sense of continuity and stability for each LAC.

Objectives

- 1 All LAC children will be made known to the designated teacher, HOY and tutor and strategies will be implemented to raise their confidence and self-esteem. They will be closely monitored in accordance with the ECM agenda and use of the ECM log.
- 2a All members of staff are provided with regular opportunities to receive the Children Protection Awareness training and to develop their understanding of the issues with which LAC children are often faced, such as exclusion, low-self-esteem, abuse etc.

- 2b Procedures for safeguarding and Looked After Children are included in the Staff handbook and Inclusion Booklet and updated regularly
- 2c The school will designate members of staff to act as Child Protection Officers and will include the monitoring of LAC children in their duties. These Officers will undergo relevant and up-to-date training.
- 2d All job descriptions include the responsibility to report signs of abuse or exclusion to the relevant designated Child Protection Officer.
- 3a To maintain good levels of communication between all members of staff.
- 3b To ensure that procedures within school are followed consistently by all members of staff in cases of abuse, exclusion from the community and underachievement.
- 3c To provide all LAC with an Academic Learning Mentor, who will meet with each child regularly to monitor their academic progress, assess any interventions needed and then ensure that these are referred to the Referral Panel.
- 4a All parents/carers are made aware of the responsibilities of staff members with regard to Child protection, academic monitoring and pastoral & spiritual welfare. (For example, in the School Prospectus, Consultation Days, Information Evenings.)
- 4b Designated teacher for LAC, CPOs, HOYs, and Support staff will meet regularly with outside agencies to discuss the academic progress of LAC pupils and any circumstances which might impact on their progress.

Race, Gender & Disability Equality Monitoring	Date:
1. Does this policy have any implications for race, gender & disability equality?	
<i>Yes, because regardless of their race, gender or disabilities, Looked After Children will be treated in the same way.</i>	
2. If 'yes', will it advantage or disadvantage any particular group?	
<i>It should not disadvantage or advantage any group.</i>	
3. How will this policy, if relevant, promote good race relations?	
<i>Looked After Children of all ethnic groups will be encouraged to develop high self esteem.</i>	
Monitored by	

Success Criteria**Date:**

- LAC make the expected levels of progress from KS2-KS4
- LAC are not “over-represented” in the
 - bullying incident
 - racial incidents
 - exclusion data

Procedures to be carried out in connection with the Child Protection Policy

The Children and Young Persons Act, 2009 demands that a designated teacher is appointed to support LAC and to plan with social workers and parents/carers to provide an individual Personal Education Plan.

The designated teacher for LAC at Cardinal Newman School is Mrs Michelle Chappell

The CPOs at Cardinal Newman are Mr Mike Jones and Mrs Michelle Chappell, who have undergone a 2 day Child Protection Foundation training course. In the case of their absence Mrs Donna Chambers will be the designated point of contact.

Responsibility of the Designated Teacher / CPO

The designated teacher, in conjunction with the CPO will:

- Maintain an up to date record of all Looked After Children who are on the school roll. This will include:
 - Status i.e. care order or accommodated
 - Type of Placement i.e. Foster, respite, residential
 - Name of Social Worker, area office, telephone number
 - Daily contact and numbers e.g. name of parent or carer or key worker in children’s home
 - SEN Code of Practice – School Action / School Action Plus where appropriate
 - Child Protection Information when appropriate
 - Baseline Information and all test results
 - Attendance figures
 - Exclusions
- Ensure that there is a Personal Education Plan for each child/young person to include appropriate targets and above information. This must be compatible with the child/young person’s Care Plan and where applicable include any other school plan e.g. Statement of Special Education Need, and associated plans, Transition Plan, Pastoral Support Programme

- Ensure that someone attends Children's Services Reviews on each child/young person and/or always prepares a written report which promotes the continuity and stability of their education
- Liaise with Education Support Service for Looked After Children on a regular basis with regard to the performance, attendance and attainment of Looked After Children
- Ensure that if/when the child transfers school all relevant information is forwarded to the receiving school as a matter of priority
- Ensure that systems are in place to identify and prioritise when Looked After Children are underachieving and have early interventions to improve this in line with existing school policy
- Ensure that systems are in place to keep staff up to date and informed about Looked After Children where and when appropriate
- Ensure that Looked After Children, along with all children are listened to and have equal opportunity to pastoral support in school
- Ensure that they keep the school up to date with current legislation and its implication for the school in respect of Looked After Children
- Report to the Governing Body annually on the performance of the Looked After Children who are on the roll of the school

Roles and Responsibilities of Staff

1. As with all pupils, have high expectations and celebrate the educational, spiritual and personal achievement of LAC.
2. To ensure entry to examinations for LAC.
3. To liaise with the designated teacher where an LAC is experiencing difficulty.
4. To encourage the inclusion of LAC and be sensitive to their needs.
5. To be familiar with the Guidance on LAC and to respond appropriately to requests for information to support the completion of PEPs and other documentation needed for review meetings.
6. To encourage LAC to develop their God-given talents to their fullest potential and to encourage involvement in extra-curricular activities.

Roles and Responsibilities of the Governing Body

1. Ensure that the school's policies and procedures give LAC equal access in respect of
 - Admission to school (NB: admission criteria needs to prioritise LAC)
 - The National Curriculum and public examinations
 - Their spiritual, moral and social development
 - Additional educational support and extra-curricular activities
 - Work experience and careers guidance

In pursuit of this Policy Governors will:

- Nominate a Designated Teacher for Looked After Children who will act as their advocate and co-ordinate support for them
- Nominate a school governor to ensure 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

All Governors and Staff will:

- Support the Local Authority in its statutory duty to promote the educational achievement of Looked After Children