



Looked after Children

Promoting the Education of Looked After
Children and Young People

Empathy, Respect, Forgiveness and Responsibility

Mission Statement

At The King's CE School

we believe that everyone is unique and created in God's image.

We enable all to achieve their God-given potential;

to grow, learn and aspire;

to transform their lives and the lives of others

and to journey in faith without limits

within a unified, respectful and harmonious community.

'Aspire, Believe and Achieve Together'

Aspire to be the best that we can be... Believe that anything is possible... Achieve beyond what we ever imagined...

- ◆ Learn and worship in the name of God – Father, Son and Holy Spirit – revealed in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ and value, respect and celebrate all faiths and cultures.
- ◆ Believe in themselves and become successful adult – developing their vision, faith, ambition and aspirations.
- ◆ Develop a resilience and inner strength to overcome life challenges.
- ◆ Embrace life-enriching experiences and make well-informed lifestyle choices that promote health and wellbeing.
- ◆ Develop thinking skills and transferrable skills, working in partnership to become life-long learners.

1. Introduction

The King's CE School believes that, as Corporate Parents and in partnership with key stakeholders, we have a legal, moral and professional duty to safeguard and promote the education of Looked after Children (LAC).

The terms 'looked-after children' and 'children in care' include children placed by a local authority with family members, foster carers or in a residential care home. They also include those placed in care through a care order under section 31 of the Children Act 1989 or by a voluntary agreement with the child's parents under section 20 of the Act. The terms can also be used to refer to children entered into police protection and those involved in the youth justice system.

We know that a secure and successful education is a major factor in improving the life chances of LAC and Care Leavers. We also recognise that nationally, pupils in care have significantly underachieved compared with their peers. Through implementing this policy, our intention is to work toward closing that achievement gap.

We promote the inclusion, well-being and achievement of looked after children in our school. In pursuance of this we will hold ourselves and our partners to account by asking the question, 'Would this be good enough for my child?'

2. Background legislation

This policy is based on the following legislation:

1. *Section 20 of the Children and Young Persons Act 2008 ("the Act") and The Designated Teacher (Looked-after Pupils etc.) (England) Regulations 2009.*
2. *The Local Authority statutory duty under 22(3A) of the Children Act 1989 to promote the educational achievement of looked after children – see link below.*
3. *The Children and Families Act 2014, which requires every local authority in England to appoint an officer to make sure that its duty is properly discharged - referred to as the Virtual School Head.*
4. *The ASCL Act 2009, which places a duty on local authorities to promote a person's learning potential while in custody and on release.*

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/promoting-the-education-of-looked-after-children>

3. How will the impact of the policy be evidenced?

The impact of the policy will be seen through improvements in the following key outcomes for Looked After Children:

- ✓ Reduction or zero rate in school exclusions
- ✓ Improved school attendance
- ✓ Improved attainment at statutory assessment stages
- ✓ Improved and maintained rates of progress and attainment
- ✓ Improved quality of Personal Education Plans (PEPs)
- ✓ The views of children & young people (as recorded in PEPs and captured through the Children in Care Council (CiCC) and wider consultation
- ✓ Ultimately, an increase in LAC and Care Leavers and young people in the criminal justice system aged 16+ who are in Education, Employment & Training (EET) and numbers of Care Leavers accessing higher education (HE)

4. Partnership working

We will work together with key local authority departments including the Virtual School Head (VSH), along with education providers and other relevant agencies, to enable the best possible outcomes for looked after pupils through flexible and proactive partnership working.

5. The Governing Body

The governing body will:

- Ensure that there is a named designated member of staff for LAC (Mr P Sutton) and that he is enabled to carry out his responsibilities in line with statutory guidance
- Support the Principal, designated member of staff and other staff in ensuring that the progress of LAC is prioritised and supported in line with statutory responsibilities
- Nominate a governor (Ann Gough) for Looked after Children. The nominated governor will take a leading responsibility for the challenge and support of the school in raising achievement for LAC pupils and attend relevant training. The Nominated Governor should have a termly meeting with the designated member of staff, with a clear agenda to address annual school improvement issues related to LAC. They will also ensure that the designated member of staff provides an annual report (as a minimum) to the governing body. The nominated governor will present this report to the wider governing body in partnership with the designated member of staff

6. The Senior Leadership Team

The Principal and Senior Leadership Team will:

- Ensure that LAC are prioritised in school policy & procedure and in the allocation of resources, in line with Ofsted and DfE guidance to ensure that LAC access the best of what the school has to offer.

- Ensure that LAC are given top priority in school admissions, in line with national statutory guidance and Wolverhampton Admissions policy. The school must ensure that the provision is right for the child and, if there are issues, school will meet with social care the Virtual School Head (VSH) and other key partners as appropriate, to resolve these issues.
- Consider every possible alternative to a temporary or permanent exclusion, in line with national, local and school admissions policies, due to the disproportionate effect that exclusion can have on Looked after Children. Instead, we will work together proactively with all key partners including the local authority, using every resource in our control (including alternative provision where appropriate), to solve problems.
- In the event of a serious issue, which might otherwise lead to permanent exclusion, the child may be placed on a fixed-term exclusion and an emergency review of the PEP and other relevant plans / provision will be called and attended by key personnel, e.g. the child's carer, social worker.
- If we feel that we are unable to meet the child's needs, we will work with external agencies to ensure that any special educational needs, including social emotional and mental health needs, are assessed in accordance with the SEN/D Code of Practice (2015). This should include, where appropriate, referral for a statutory education, health and care needs assessment.
- On occasion, by shared agreement and in the best interests of the child, a move to another provision may be considered in order to avoid a permanent exclusion.
- Where a modified timetable may be in the best interests of the child, this will firstly be discussed and (if appropriate) agreed in a review of the Personal Education Plan, thereby taking into account the views of the child, carer and social worker.
- Take a proactive approach to sourcing the DfE-recommended first day provision for fixed term exclusion for LAC, in view of the additional pressures that exclusion can put on care placements.
- Be aware that looked after children are more likely to have special educational needs than most, work proactively to identify any SEN affecting Looked after Children, and make appropriate provision in accordance with the SEND Code of Practice.
- Ensure that LAC have an appropriate 25-hour offer of education, other than for a fixed period which has been agreed with carer and social worker.
- Make our school "attachment aware" and fully able to meet each child's learning, health & wellbeing needs, by ensuring that key staff keep up-to-date with relevant policy and legislation and attend relevant training, such as that provided by the Virtual School Head (VSH) and Educational Psychology Service. We will ensure that key staff are aware of statutory guidance in this area (see link below).

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/413368/Promoting the health and well-being of looked-after children.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/413368/Promoting_the_health_and_well-being_of_looked-after_children.pdf)

7. The Designated Member of Staff

We will have a designated member of staff for LAC who is able to affect changes in policy and procedure where appropriate. The designated member of staff will:

- Be an advocate for all children in this school who are in care ensuring that their voice is heard and acted upon

- Ensure confidentiality for individual children and only share personal information on a need to know basis and in line with school safeguarding and information-sharing protocols.
- Maintain an up to date record of all Looked after Children
- Provide the Virtual School Head/Cope Team with termly data on the performance, attendance and attainment of Wolverhampton LAC
- Be a central point of contact, working with any previous educational settings to ensure a smooth induction and transition into school
- Liaise with the child, carer & social worker to ensure that for LAC a high-quality Personal Education Plan (PEP) is completed and reviewed within statutory timescales (and more often if necessary) with SMART targets to support accelerated progress
- Ensure that Pupil Premium and other allocated funding is used in the most appropriate way to support each Looked after Child's individual learning targets, as agreed in their PEP meeting with the child's carer, social worker and NSH
<https://www.gov.uk/pupil-premium-virtual-school-heads-responsibilities>
- Contribute to LAC and SEND reviews and other meetings as required & appropriate
- Fulfil school safeguarding protocols, be alert to any child protection issues, and know what action to take
- Inform the child's carer and social worker when a child in care is absent from school without notification or excluded
- Attend relevant training on safeguarding and Looked after Children
- Provide in-school training for school staff around attachment, trauma and recovery and its implications for behaviour management.
- Provide support and CPD to staff, with a knowledge of the emotional impact that who are looked after can have on trusted adults, including their class-based staff.
- Meet with the Nominated Governor or Chair of Governors annually and report to the Governing Body annually, as a minimum, on the performance of their Looked after pupils, without naming individual children
- Ensure well-planned and informed transitions when a child changes school, with timely information sharing
- Ensure that the statutory guidance on the role of the Designated member of staff is embedded within practice

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/269764/role_and_responsibilities_of_the_designated_teacher_for_looked_after_children.pdf

9. All School Staff

All school staff will:

- Ensure a safe & secure environment in which vulnerable pupils are able to flourish and grow and high aspirations are encouraged
- Seek advice from designated teacher regarding induction, own CPD and any interventions, classroom environment adaptations etc.
- Be sensitive to the needs of LAC, including confidentiality issues
- Support the local authority in its statutory duty to promote the educational achievement of Children in Care