



School Policy  
for  
Looked After Children

Our Lady star of the Sea RC Primary School is committed to ensuring all children have equitable access to a high quality education delivered within a safe and positive learning environment, which enables them to fulfill their potential.

The school recognizes that nationally and locally there is considerable underachievement of looked after children in comparison to their peers largely as a result of the impact of life experiences, rather than differences in overall ability.

Under Section 52 of the Children Act 2004, the school understands and supports its role in working with children, parents and carers and the local authority to ensure underachievement is challenged and high aspirations are encouraged amongst looked after children attending our school.

The Governing Body and school staff are committed to ensuring improved life chances for looked after children by ensuring that:

- The Governing Body and the school staff are fully aware of the issues affecting looked after children and the legislation and statutory guidance underpinning the work to improve academic achievement.
- The school adopts a policy for the Education of Looked After Children which is disseminated to all staff and regularly reviewed
- The confidential policy of the school protects looked after children and ensures that there is controlled and appropriate sharing of information
- The school ensures inclusion of looked after children by ensuring its policies are non discriminatory and take into account the additional issues affecting looked after children and other vulnerable groups.

- A designated teacher is identified within the school to ensure the child achieves stability and success within the school in accordance with the duties specified in local authority guidance
- A designated Governor is nominated to monitor the work of the school in supporting its looked after children as part of a larger group of vulnerable children
- The school actively participates in the Personal Education Planning process by ensuring appropriate representation at meetings and contribution towards SMART targets
- Following the completion of the PEP, the school will ensure it deploys resources appropriately to support targets being achieved.
- Looked After Children will pursue accredited curriculum pathways that are appropriate to their ability and interests.
- Looked after children are encouraged to access out of school hours learning activities realizing the positive impact this could have on friendships, self esteem and achievement.
- The school will liaise closely with parents/carers and colleagues from Children and Young People's Services to celebrate achievement and discuss concerns.
- The school will liaise closely with the maximizing Attainment team within the Access Service to ensure the child receives further educational support as appropriate.
- The school will send reports/ representatives to any reviews held for the child including Personal Education Plan and Care Plan reviews.
- The school will release looked after children from lessons to attend the PEP meetings if necessary.

- The school will ensure the views of looked after children are heard and used to inform further development of school practice.
- The school will develop strong methods of communication with parents and carers and ensure all appropriate people with parental responsibility receive invitations to school activities and events.

The Headteacher will be responsible for ensuring all staff are briefed on the regulations and practice outlines in this policy.

This policy document should be used alongside:

- Durham County Council Guidance for School on Supporting the Education of Looked After Children.
- Section 52 statutory guidance on the Children Act 2004.

Designated teacher for LAC : Miss J. Jones

Designated Governor for LAC: Mr D. Dunleavy

Signatures:

Headteacher: ..... Date: .....

Chair of Governors: ..... Date: .....