

Policy for the Looked After and Previously Looked After Children

Name of School	Mapledown School
This policy was amended on	16 th November 2020
This policy was agreed by Governors and adopted on	22 nd March 2021
The policy was reviewed in	September 2021
The policy is to be reviewed annually in	September 2022

STATEMENT OF INTENT

Educational achievement and subsequent life chances for Looked after Children (LAC) and previously-LAC are of real concern. Pupils who are looked after require additional support and attention in order to improve their situation as national data suggests that, children in public care have significantly underachieved compared to their peers.

The Governing Body of Mapledown School is committed to promote the inclusion, wellbeing and achievement of all LAC (Looked After Children) and will ensure that the school has a Designated Teacher for LAC and that the Designated Teacher is able to carry out his /her responsibilities effectively.

Named Designated Teacher : Sue Hart Deputy Head

Mapledown school endeavours to provide positive experiences and offer stability, safety, and individual care and attention for all our pupils. With this in mind, we aim to:

- Encourage pupils to reach their potential and to make good progress in relation to their professional, social and emotional development.
- Ensure that pupils enjoy high quality teaching and a curriculum which meets their needs and the requirements of legislation.
- Plan support for LAC realistically and use the school's resources efficiently to ensure the school meets their needs.
- Promote a positive culture in all aspects of school life.
- Help pupils develop their cultural, moral and social understanding

Content:

1. Legal framework
2. Definitions
3. Roles and responsibilities
4. Personal education plan (PEP)
5. Working with agencies and the Virtual School Head (VSH)
6. Training
7. Safeguarding

8. Pupil mental health
9. Exclusions
10. Pupils with SEND
11. Information sharing
12. Monitoring and review

This policy has due regard to legislation and statutory guidance, including, but not limited to, the following:

- Children Act 1989, 2002, 2004
- The Care Planning, Placement and Case Review (England) Regulations 2010
- Children (Leaving Care) Act 2000
- Children and Young Persons Act 2008
- Children and Families Act 2014
- Children and Social Work Act 2017
- DfE (2018) 'Promoting the education of looked-after children and previously looked-after children'
- DfE (2018) 'The designated teacher for looked-after and previously looked-after children'
- DfE (2017) 'Exclusions from maintained schools, academies and pupil referral units in England'
- DfE (2021) 'Keeping children safe in education'
- DfE (2018) 'Working Together to Safeguard Children'

This policy operates in conjunction with the following school policies and documents:

- Admissions Policy
- Behaviour Policy
- Home School Agreement
- Anti-Bullying Policy
- Equality and Accessibility Policy
- Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy
- SEND Policy

THE ROLE OF THE DESIGNATED TEACHER:

The Role and Responsibilities of the Designated Teacher for Looked After Children (DCSF Statutory Guidance 2009) states that the Designated Teacher should be 'someone with sufficient authority to make things happen, (who) should be an advocate for the young people in public care, accessing services and support, and ensuring that the school shares and supports high expectations for them.'

Our Designated Teacher will :

- Ensure a welcome and smooth induction for the child and their 'carer.'
- Ensure that every LAC has an identified key member of staff (usually the class teacher).
- Ensure that staff are informed on a need to know basis of all relevant information about the child.
- Co-ordinate any support that is necessary within the school.
- 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 urgent meetings with relevant parties where the child is experiencing difficulties in school or is at risk of exclusion.
- Ensure the speedy transfer of information between individuals, agencies and if the child changes school, to the new school.

THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF ALL STAFF

All our staff will:

- Have high aspirations for the educational and personal achievement of all LAC in the school.
- Ensure that all LAC are supported sensitively.
- Respond promptly to the Designated Teachers requests for information.
- Work to enable all LAC to achieve stability and success within school.
- Promote the self- esteem of all LAC, maintain confidentiality and ensure that no LAC is stigmatised in any way.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE GOVERNING BODY

The Governing Body will:

- Ensure that the school has a Designated Teacher, and that the Designated Teacher is enabled to carry out his / her responsibilities.
- Support everyone with responsibility for LAC in the school in ensuring that the needs of these children are recognised and met.
- Ensure that all Governors are fully aware of the legal requirements and guidance for the education of LAC.
- Nominate a Governor to take special interest in this area of the school work.

Named Nominated Governor: Teresa Bull

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE NOMINATED GOVERNOR

The nominated Governor will liaise with the Designated Teacher and report to the Governing Body on an annual basis:

- The number of looked after children on the school roll.
- Their attendance as a discreet group, compared to other students.
- Their end of key stage and predicted scores as a discreet group compared to other students.
- The number of fixed term and permanent exclusions.
- The destinations of students who leave the school.

The information for this report will be collected and reported in ways that preserve the anonymity, and respect the confidentiality of the students concerned.

The nominated Governor will also ensure that the schools other policies and procedures give LAC equal access in respect of:

- Admission to school – LAC are in the highest category for admission
- The National Curriculum and public examinations.

- Additional educational support where this is needed.
- In conjunction with the child's social worker and the local authority Head teacher for looked after children, ensure that a Personal Education Plan is completed within **20 working days** of the child joining the school.
- In conjunction with the social worker for looked after children, ensure that the personal education plan is regularly reviewed each term.
- Extra-curricular activities
- Work experience and careers guidance where appropriate.

TRAINING

- The Headteacher / Designated Teacher /CPD Leader will ensure that staff are briefed on the regulations and practice outlined in this policy and other relevant policies as required.