

Anlaby Primary School

Looked After Children Policy

Signed Staff:

Date:

Signed Governor

Date:

Definition

'Looked After' is a term that refers to children for whom the Local Authority is sharing parental responsibility. This can happen either with parental agreement or when a Court makes a Care Order. The child may be living with foster carers, in a residential unit, with family members or sometimes with their parents. These children are therefore subject to corporate parenting.

This policy includes requirements set out in "Statutory guidance on the duty on local authorities to promote the educational achievement of children under section 52 of the Children Act 2004" and associated guidance on the education of Looked After Children.

Implementation and Organisation

Anlaby Primary School recognises that all pupils are entitled to a balanced, broad-based curriculum and aims to promote the educational achievement and welfare of pupils in public care. Anlaby Primary School's approach to encouraging and supporting the educational achievement of Looked After Children is based on the following principles:

- ensuring an appropriately trained Designated Teacher is appointed, who will be responsible for all Looked After children;
- all Looked After Children will have a Personal Education Plan (PEP) drawn up between the school, the child, and the child's social worker, which will identify the child's individual needs and the support they require;
- having high expectations for the child and ensuring equal access to a balanced and broadly based education;
- recording, monitoring, and improving the academic achievement of the child in addition to their health and wellbeing;
- achieving stability and continuity;
- prioritising reduction in exclusions and promoting attendance;
- promoting inclusion through challenging and changing attitudes;
- recording, monitoring, and improving the academic achievement of the child in addition to their health and wellbeing;
- promoting good communication between all those involved in the child's life and listening to the child;
- maintaining and respecting the child's confidentiality wherever possible;
- ensuring staff awareness of, and sensitivity to, the difficulties and educational disadvantages of Looked After Children.

Responsibility for the Policy and Procedure

Role of the Governing Body

The Governing Body has:

- appointed a member of staff to be responsible for Looked After Children;
- delegated powers and responsibilities to the Headteacher to ensure all school personnel and visitors to the school are aware of and comply with this policy;
- responsibility for ensuring the school's admission criteria complies with current legislation therefore giving top priority for Looked After Children in the event of over subscription;
- responsibility for ensuring Looked After Children have equal access to admission to school, the National Curriculum, examinations, out of school learning and extra-curricular activities;
- responsibility for ensuring that the school complies with all equalities legislation;
- nominated a designated governor to ensure that appropriate action will be taken to deal with all prejudice related incidents or incidents which are a breach of this policy;
- responsibility for ensuring funding is in place to support this policy;
- responsibility for ensuring this policy and all policies are maintained and updated regularly;
- responsibility for ensuring all policies are made available to parents;
- nominated a link governor to visit the school regularly, to liaise with the Headteacher and the Designated Teacher and to report back to the Governing Body;
- responsibility for the effective implementation, monitoring and evaluation of this policy.

Role of the Headteacher

The Headteacher will ensure that:

- the Looked After Children policy is implemented;
- a designated teacher is in place who is an advocate for Looked After Children;
- appropriate support and training is provided for the Looked After Children teacher;
- ensure all school personnel and parents are aware of and comply with this policy;
- all staff receive relevant training and are aware of their responsibilities;
- that tracking procedures are in place to monitor, admissions, attendance, exclusions, progress, behaviour and support;
- provide leadership and vision in respect of equality;
- provide guidance, support and training to all staff;
- monitor the effectiveness of this policy.

Role of the Designated Teacher

The Designated Teacher is a strong advocate for Looked After Children and will ensure that:

- all Looked After Children and their carers receive a positive and smooth induction into the school;
- the allocated social worker organises for an appropriate Personal Education Plan to be completed within 20 days of the Looked After Children joining the school or entering care;
- strong and positive home/school relationships are in place;
- Looked After Children are not bullied in any form by actively monitoring and preventing bullying by raising awareness through the school's anti-bullying policy;
- all staff and governors are kept up to date on all issues relevant to Looked After Children and receive the necessary training;
- all Looked After Children receive the necessary support within the school;
- strong links are in place with all agencies dealing with Looked After Children;
- urgent multi agency meetings will be convened if a Looked After Child is experiencing difficulties or at risk of exclusion;
- Looked After Children have full access to the National Curriculum;
- out of hours learning and extra-curricular activities are promoted for Looked After Children;
- procedures are in place to provide confidentiality for all Looked After Children;
- academic progress, attendance and behaviour is tracked with appropriate support given;
- all information is transferred quickly and efficiently when Looked After Children move to another school or phase;
- the 'curricular committee' is kept up to date.

Inclusion

In planning and teaching, teachers ensure that they set suitable learning challenges and respond to pupils' diverse needs, making every effort to overcome potential barriers to learning and assessment. The same consideration must be made for individuals and groups of pupils, including the Looked After Pupils.

Equality of access to the curriculum will be maintained through consistent planning to ensure that pupils are able to take part fully in all activities over the full breadth of the subject.

In the interest of providing equal opportunities for all pupils, staff will consider and respect gender, ethnicity, culture, disadvantaged and context as well as capability.

Monitoring and Assessment

The designated teacher will liaise termly with the link governor and will publish an annual Looked After Child report to share with the governing body. The designated teacher will also monitor the progress and attainment of Looked After Children and share this information during the Personal Education Plan meetings and Looked After Child Reviews.

Through observation, marking and discussion, children will be assessed each term against age related expectations set out in the Cornerstones Curriculum, the National Curriculum or Early Learning Goals. This data will be scrutinised by all staff for the purpose of school improvement.

The progress of the children will be reported to parents and carers through parent consultations and the annual achievement report.