



Cabot
Learning
Federation



Looked After and Previously Looked After Children Policy

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1 Background

Nationally, Looked After Children (also known as Children in Care) significantly underachieve and are at greater risk of exclusion compared with their peers. We have a major part to play in ensuring that Looked After Children are supported to be healthy, stay safe, enjoy, achieve, make a positive contribution to society and achieve economic wellbeing. For the purpose of our policy and procedures, Looked After Children will incorporate previously Looked After Children recognising that not all statutory functions apply to PLAC but, in the main, the barriers do.

Helping Looked After Children succeed and providing a better future for them is a key priority for the school. This policy takes account of:

- Section 52 of the Children Act 2004 to promote the educational achievement of Looked After Children (LAC).
- The Education (Admission of Looked After Children)(England) Regulations 2006.
- Relevant DfES guidance to Governing Bodies (*Supporting Looked After Learners: A Practical Guide for School Governors*).

Bristol Metropolitan Academy's approach to supporting the educational achievement of Looked After Children and previously Looked After Children is based on the following principles:

- Prioritising education.
- Promoting attendance.
- Targeting support.
- Targeted spending of Pupil Premium Plus money (with 80% spent on literacy and numeracy, as directed by Bristol Local Authority). (Looked After Children only).
- Having high expectations.
- Promoting inclusion through challenging and changing attitudes.
- Achieving stability and continuity.
- Early intervention and priority action.
- Listening to students.
- Promoting health and wellbeing.
- Reducing exclusions and promoting stability.
- Working in partnership with carers, social workers and other professionals. (Looked After Children only).
- Promoting careers support and advice.

Implications

We are committed to helping every Looked After Child and Previously Looked After Children to achieve the highest standards they can, including supporting aspirations to achieve in further and higher education. This will be measured by progress, achievements and attendance.

- Ensure a Designated Teacher for Looked After Children and previously Looked After Children is identified and enabled to carry out the responsibilities set out below.
- Ensure an in date Personal Education Plan (PEP) is put in place, implemented and regularly reviewed for every Looked After Child, in line with guidance on PEPs.
- Identify a governor as Designated Governor for Looked After Children and previously Looked After Children

Responsibility of the Governing Body

- Identify a nominated Governor for Looked After Children and previously Looked After Children.
- Ensure that all Governors are fully aware of the legal requirements and guidance on the education of Looked After Children and previously Looked After Children.
- Ensure the school has an overview of the needs and progress of Looked After Children and previously Looked After Children.
- Allocate resources to meet the needs of Looked After Children and previously Looked After Children.
- Ensure the school's other policies and procedures support their needs.

2 Procedures

BMA will:

- Monitor the academic progress of Looked After Children, through an annual report created by the Designated Teacher (see below).
- Work to prevent exclusions and reduce time out of school, by ensuring the school implements policies and procedures to ensure Looked After Children achieve and enjoy their time at the school, by recognising the extra problems caused by excluding them and by not excluding them except as a last resort.
- Ensure that the school has a Designated Teacher and that the Designated Teacher is enabled to carry out his or her responsibilities as below.
- Support the Designated Teacher and other staff in ensuring that the needs of Looked After Children and previously Looked After Children are recognised and met.
- Receive a report once a year on Looked After Children setting out:
 1. The number of looked-after pupils on the school's roll (if any)
 2. Their attendance, as a discreet group, compared to other pupils.
 3. GCSE results, and other qualifications achieved, as a discreet group, compared to other pupils.
 4. The number of fixed term and permanent exclusions (if any).
 5. The destinations of pupils who leave the school.
 6. The information for this report should be collected and reported in ways that preserve the anonymity and respect the confidentiality of the pupils concerned.

The role of the Designated Teacher

Government Guidance says that the Designated Teacher should be "someone with sufficient authority to make things happen (who) should be an advocate for Looked After Children and Previously Looked After Children, assessing services and support, and ensuring that the school shares and supports high expectations for them".

The Designated Teacher will:

- For Looked After Children, ensure a welcome and smooth induction for the child and their carer, using the Personal Education Plan to plan for that transition in consultation with the child's social worker.

- For Looked After Children, ensure that a Personal Education Plan is completed with the child, the social worker, virtual school advocate, the foster carer and any other relevant people.
- Ensure that each Looked After Child has an identified member of staff that they can talk to. This need not be the Designated Teacher, but should be based on the student's own wishes, often but not exclusively the pastoral House Team.
- Track academic progress and target support appropriately for Looked After Children and previously Looked After Children.
- Co-ordinate any support for the Looked After Children that is necessary within school.
- Ensure confidentiality for individual pupils, sharing personal information on a need to know basis.
- Ensure, as far as possible, attendance at planning and review meetings.
- Act as an advisor to staff and Governors, raising their awareness of the needs of Looked After Children.
- Set up timely meetings with relevant parties where the pupil is experiencing difficulties in school or is at risk of exclusion.
- Ensure the speedy transfer of information between individuals, agencies and – if the pupil changes school – to a new school.
- Be pro-active in supporting transition and planning when moving to a new phase in education.
- Track academic progress and target support appropriately.
- Promote inclusion in all areas of school life.
- Be aware that 60% of Looked After Children say they are bullied, so actively monitor and prevent bullying in school.
- Check data is added to the Portal or ePEP and ensure it is updated swiftly.
- Coordinate with and oversee house teams to ensure Looked After Children are being supported within school by the people that work most closely with them. This includes their involvement in the running of PEPs and day-to-day communication and procedures e.g. attendance monitoring.

The responsibilities of all staff

All the staff will:

- Have high aspirations for the educational and personal achievement of Looked After Children and Previously Looked After Children, as for all pupils.
- Maintain Looked After Children's confidentiality and ensure they are supported sensitively.
- Respond positively to a pupil's request to be the named member of staff whom they can talk to when they feel it is necessary.
- Respond promptly to the Designated Teacher's requests for information.
- Work to enable Looked After Children to achieve stability and success within BMA.
- Promote the self-esteem of all Looked After Children.
- Have an understanding of the key issues that affect the learning of Looked After Children.

The Designated Teacher will ensure that all staff are briefed on the regulations and practice outlined in this policy.