

OUR LADY IMMACULATE CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN POLICY

We believe this policy should be a working document that is fit for purpose, represents the school ethos, enables consistency and quality across the school and is related to the following legislation:

- Education Act 1996
- Children Act 2004
- Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006
- Equality Act 2010
- Children and Families Act 2014
- Special Educational Needs and Disability (Detained Persons) Regulations 2015

The following documentation is also related to this policy:

- Dealing with Allegations of Abuse against Teachers and other Staff: Guidance for Local Authorities, Headteachers, School Staff, Governing Bodies and Proprietors of Independent Schools (DfE)
- Equality Act 2010: Advice for Schools (DfE)
- Keeping Children Safe in Education: Statutory Guidance for Schools and Colleges (DfE)
- Special Educational Needs and Disability Code of Practice: 0 to 25 Years. Statutory Guidance for Organisations Who Work With and Support Children and Young People with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (DfE) and (DoH)
- Working Together to Safeguard Children: A Guide to Inter-agency Working to Safeguard and Promote the Welfare of Children

We understand that children or young people who have been taken into care by the local authority or who have a voluntary care arrangement are known as 'Looked After'. This is because of family breakdown, abuse, neglect or social need. Looked After Children will either be living in foster homes, children's residential homes, living with a relative or with their natural parent(s).

We are committed to providing quality education for all our pupils including Looked After Children. It is nationally recognised that Looked After Children significantly underachieve and are at greater risk of exclusion when compared with their peers. Therefore, we believe we have a duty 'to safeguard Looked After Children, to promote their educational achievements and to ensure they are able to achieve and reach their full potential'. (Children Act 2004)

We have a duty to:

- ensure Looked After Children are never refused a service, including mental health, on the grounds of their placement.
- in the event of oversubscription to give priority to Looked After Children.
- appoint a designated qualified teacher to promote the educational achievement of Looked After Children
- ensure the designated teacher undertakes appropriate training.
- have in place a personal education plan for all Looked After Children drawn up in consultation with the local authority.
- ensure Looked After Children are involved in planning and decision making in regard to their education.
- act on any issues as highlighted in the annual report from the designated teacher.
- We have a duty to safeguard children, young people and families from violent extremism. We are aware that there are extremists' groups within our country who wish to radicalise vulnerable children and to involve them in terrorism or in activity in support of terrorism. Periodic risk assessments are undertaken to

assess the risk of pupils being drawn into terrorism. School personnel must be aware of the increased risk of online radicalisation, and alert to changes in pupil's behaviour. Any concerns will be reported to the Designated Safeguarding Lead.

We are aware that under the 'Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015' we have the duty to have 'due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism'. This duty is known as the Prevent duty and we believe it is essential that school personnel are able to identify those who may be vulnerable to radicalisation or being influenced by extremist views, and then to know what to do when they are identified.

We provide a safe environment where we promote pupils' welfare. Within this environment we work hard to build pupils' resilience to radicalisation and extremism by promoting fundamental British values and for everyone to understand the risks associated with terrorism. We want pupils to develop their knowledge and skills in order to challenge extremist views.

We as a school community have a commitment to promote equality. Therefore, an equality impact assessment has been undertaken and we believe this policy is in line with the Equality Act 2010.

We believe it is essential that this policy clearly identifies and outlines the roles and responsibilities of all those involved in the procedures and arrangements that are connected with this policy.

Aims

- To promote the educational achievements of Looked After Children by ensuring they are able to achieve and reach their full potential.
- To help children who are looked after make positive life choices.
- To give priority consideration to Looked After Children in the school's oversubscription criteria.
- To protect children from the risk of radicalisation and extremism.
- To ensure compliance with all relevant legislation connected to this policy.
- To work with other schools and the local authority to share good practice in order to improve this policy.

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 Equalities 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;
- make effective use of relevant research and information to improve this policy;
- responsibility for ensuring all policies are made available to parents;
- nominated a link governor to:

- visit the school regularly;
- work closely with the Headteacher and the Designated Teacher;
- ensure this policy and other linked policies are up to date;
- ensure that everyone connected with the school is aware of this policy;
- attend training related to this policy;
- report to the Governing Body every term;
- annually report to the Governing Body on the success and development of this policy.
- 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;
- in the event of oversubscription priority is given to Looked After Children;
- effective tracking procedures are in place to monitor, admissions, attendance, exclusions, progress, behaviour and support;
- data and other pupil information is in place to create an accurate record that can be handed on to the next school;
- effective behaviour management systems and measures are in place to support pupil well-being;
- a personal education plan is in place for all Looked After Children drawn up in consultation with the local authority;
- any issues as highlighted in the annual report from the designated teacher are acted on;
- there are good links with local support agencies especially Social Services;
- Looked After Children are involved in planning and decision making in regard to their education and their personal development;
- a peer support group is in place;
- make effective use of relevant research and information to improve this policy;
- work closely with the link governor and the Designated Teacher;
- provide leadership and vision in respect of equality;
- provide guidance, support and training to all staff;
- monitor the effectiveness of this policy;
- the Governing Body receives an annual report that outlines the following:
 - ◆ the number of Looked After Children in the school
 - ◆ an analysis of test scores, as a discrete group, compared to other pupils
 - ◆ attendance figures compared to other pupils
 - ◆ the level of fixed term and permanent exclusions compared to other pupils
 - ◆ the number of complaints
 - ◆ the destinations of Looked After Children pupils when they leave the school

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;

- an appropriate Personal Education Plan is completed within 20 days of Looked After Children joining the school or entering care;
- each Looked After Child has an identified fully trained member of staff, other than the Designated Teacher, that they can talk to;
- strong and positive home/school relationships are in place;
- Looked After Children are included in all areas of school life;
- 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 and that access to information is on a need to know basis;
- realistic but challenging educational and personal targets should be set in consultation with the child;
- 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;
- confidentiality is adhered to and that access to information is on a need to know basis;
- the nominated Governor is kept up to date;
- the Governing Body receives an annual report on Looked After Children.

Role of the School Personnel

All teaching and support staff will:

- be made aware of and will be familiar with the Guidance on Looked After Children;
- liaise with the Designated Teacher to enable Looked After Children to achieve stability, success and to overcome any problems they may experience;
- on request provide relevant information for Personal Education Plans and review meetings;
- encourage Looked After Children to achieve their full educational and personal potential which will be celebrated at weekly achievement assemblies and the Annual Presentation of Awards;
- constantly endeavour to promote self-esteem;
- prevent bullying in line with the school's anti-bullying policy;
- accept a request to be a Looked After Child's named person to whom they can speak with when they feel it necessary;
- maintain Looked After Children's confidentiality;
- ensure Looked After Children are supported sensitively;
- be aware of all other linked policies;
- maintain high standards of ethics and behaviour within and outside school and not to undermine fundamental British values;
- work in partnership with parents and carers keeping them up to date with their child's progress and behaviour at school;
- implement the school's equalities policy and schemes;

- report and deal with all incidents of discrimination;
- attend appropriate training sessions on equality;
- report any concerns they have on any aspect of the school community.

Role of Parents/Carers

Parents/carers will:

- be aware of and comply with this policy;
- work in partnership with the school;
- comply with this policy for the benefit of their children;
- be asked to take part in periodic surveys conducted by the school;
- support the school Code of Conduct and guidance necessary to ensure smooth running of the school.

Role of Looked After Children

Pupils will be encouraged to:

- be confident about themselves and to understand that they are able to achieve and reach their full potential;
- participate in discussions concerning their progress and attainment;
- work in partnership with the school by making decisions and exercising choice in relation to their educational programme;
- discuss improvements to this policy during the school year;
- review the effectiveness of this policy with the Governing Body.

Raising Awareness of this Policy

We will raise awareness of this policy via:

- the School Handbook/Prospectus
- the school website
- the Staff Handbook
- meetings with parents such as introductory, transition, parent-teacher consultations and periodic curriculum workshops
- school events
- meetings with school personnel
- communications with home such as weekly newsletters and end of half term newsletters
- reports such as annual report to parents and Headteacher reports to the Governing Body
- information displays in the main school entrance

Training

All school personnel:

- have equal chances of training, career development and promotion
- receive training on induction which specifically covers:
 - ◆ All aspects of this policy
 - ◆ Special Educational Needs
 - ◆ Safeguarding and Child Protection
 - ◆ Inclusion
 - ◆ Equal opportunities
 - ◆ Inclusion

- receive periodic training so that they are kept up to date with new information
- receive equal opportunities training on induction in order to improve their understanding of the Equality Act 2010 and its implications.

Equality Impact Assessment

Under the Equality Act 2010 we have a duty not to discriminate against people on the basis of their age, disability, gender, gender identity, pregnancy or maternity, race, religion or belief and sexual orientation.

This policy has been equality impact assessed and we believe that it is in line with the Equality Act 2010 as it is fair, it does not prioritise or disadvantage any pupil and it helps to promote equality at this school.

Monitoring the Implementation and Effectiveness of the Policy

The practical application of this policy will be reviewed annually or when the need arises by the coordinator, the Headteacher and the nominated governor.

A statement of the policy's effectiveness and the necessary recommendations for improvement will be presented to the Governing Body for further discussion and endorsement.

Linked Policies

- Special Educational Needs
- Safeguarding and Child Protection
- Inclusion