



Elkesley Primary and Nursery School

Looked After and Post Looked After Children Policy

Compiled by	Mr C Marsh	January 2024
Agreed by	Staff	
Approved by	Governors	February 2024
Date of Review	September 2024	

Definition

A child who has been in the care of their local authority for more than 24 hours is known as a looked after child. Looked after children are also often referred to as children in care, a term which many children and young people prefer.

Each UK nation has a slightly different definition of a looked after child and follows its own legislation, policy and guidance. But in general, looked after children are:

- living with foster parents
- living in a residential children's home or
- living in residential settings like schools or secure units.

Previously looked-after children are those who:

- Are no longer looked after by a local authority in England and Wales because they are the subject of an adoption, special guardianship or child arrangements order
- Were adopted from 'state care' outside England and Wales.

Aims

The school is committed to the concept of the corporate parent for children looked after and will work tirelessly to support children looked after or previously looked after children to:

- Offer stability, safety, continuity, positive experiences and individual care and attention.
- Develop an attachment aware school and embed strategies to support the impact of trauma on emotional and mental health.
- Enable all children to make good progress in learning.

The school will take account of all related statutory guidance:

Promoting the education of looked after and previously looked after children: DFE Feb 2018 and Revised Guidance on the Role of the Designated Teacher for looked after children and previously looked after children Feb 2018.

Rationale

- Nationally, the education outcomes at all stages, for Children Looked After and children previously looked after are of concern with a significant gap compared with outcomes for their peers who are not looked after or previously looked after.
- It follows that children and young people who are looked after or previously looked after require additional support and positive discrimination in their favour if this situation is to be improved.

ROLES AND PRIORITIES

The Governing Body will:

Ensure there are designated members of teaching staff appointed who have the responsibility to promote the educational achievement of looked-after children and previously looked after children.

Ensure the designated teachers have appropriate seniority and professional experience to provide leadership, training, information, challenge and advice to others that will influence decisions about the teaching and learning needs of looked-after and previously looked-after children.

Ensure the designated teachers are able to undertake appropriate training to support their role.

Ensure looked after children and previously looked after children are the priority group for admission to the school.

Ensure Pupil Premium Grant+ allocated is used for the benefit of looked after children and previously looked after children to support progress, attainment, engagement and well-being.

Ensure school policies and approaches appropriately reflect the needs of looked-after and previously looked-after children.

The Headteacher and Leadership team will:

- Provide an annual report on the provision for, and progress of, Children Looked After and previously looked after children, to the Governing Body.
- Ensure staff are aware that the provision to support Children Looked After and previously looked after children is a key school priority.
- Give the Designated Teachers for Children Looked After and previously looked after children, the time and facilities to carry out his / her job description and to support them at all times in their work.
- Ensure the voice of looked-after and previously looked-after children is a vital part of successfully understanding and meeting their needs.
- Ensure Pupil Premium Grant+ allocated is used for the benefit of looked after Children and previously looked after children to support progress, attainment, engagement and well-being.
- Challenge negative stereotypes of Children Looked After and previously looked after children, if they exist ,and to insist on the highest of expectations and especially in terms these cohorts,
- Provide Continuing Professional Development for staff on issues pertaining to Children Looked After and previously looked after children, such as Attachment and Trauma.

Designated Teacher

The school Designated Teachers will

- Be a champion for Children Looked After and previously looked after children within the school and ensure that they are receiving special provision.
- Ensure that the Children Looked After and previously looked after children are aware of who the Designated Teacher is, and that the member of staff's role is to support them at school.
- Ensure that teachers who need to know are aware of who Children Looked After and previously looked after children are, and ensure that the staff treat the information confidentially.
- Ensure that any issues regarding a child or young person being in care or previously in care, are treated sensitively by all staff.
- Ensure Children Looked After and children previously looked after receive extra support as necessary and appropriate, with the key aims of helping them achieve their academic potential and further their personal and social development.
- Ensure Pupil Premium Grant+ allocated is used for the benefit of looked after Children and previously looked after children to support progress, attainment, engagement and well-being.
- Ensure Personal Education Plans (PEP) and PEP Reviews occur on time (one review each term) and to play the lead educational role at these PEP meetings. Ensure the pupil, parent and/or carer and Social Worker contribute to, and are involved in, PEP reviews.
 - Ensure that all possible is being done to raise the achievement levels of Children Looked After.
- Monitor attendance on a daily basis.
- To liaise closely with the Education of Children Looked After (Virtual School) Team

Teachers and Support Staff:

To be aware of Children Looked After and previously looked after children in their classes and to give them all possible support and encouragement as students who need special provision and positive discrimination whilst preserving confidentiality and showing sensitivity and understanding.