

LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN POLICY



Latest review undertaken on 19th January 2012

By the Curriculum Sub-Committee

Ratified by the Full Governing Body on 23rd February
2012

Next review: Spring term 2014

Who are our Looked After Children?

Children and young people become 'Looked After' either if they have been taken into Care by the local authority, or have been accommodated by the local authority (a voluntary care arrangement). Most LAC will be living in foster homes but a smaller number may be in a children's home, living with a relative or even be placed back at home with their natural parent(s).

INTRODUCTION

The governing body of Hadrian Academy is committed to providing quality education for all its children, based on equality of opportunity, access and outcomes. This governing body recognises that, nationally, there is considerable educational underachievement of Looked After Children, when compared with their peers, and is committed to implementing the principles and practice, as outlined in DfEE/DOH Guidance 2000 'Education Protects- Guidance on the Education of Children and Young People in Care' and the Children Act (2004).

The Children Act places a duty to safeguard looked after children, to promote their educational achievements and to ensure that they are able to "achieve to and reach their full potential". The Guidance recognises the collective responsibility of local authorities and schools to achieve good parenting and sets out six principles:

- prioritising education;
- having high expectations;
- inclusion – changing and challenging attitudes;
- achieving continuity and stability;
- early intervention – priority action; and
- listening to children.

The Guidance introduced two key measures:

- To ensure Designated teachers are nominated in every school or academy
- To ensure Personal Education Plans (PEPs) are in place for all Looked After Children.

This governing body is committed to ensuring that Designated Teachers and staff are enabled to carry out their responsibilities effectively.

ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITY OF THE DESIGNATED TEACHER

The current [designated teacher is the Principal, Mrs S. Ingham.](#)

The Designated Teacher should:

- be an advocate for Looked After Children;
- ensure a smooth and welcoming induction for the child and carer/s (and parent/s where possible). Note any specific requirements, including care status;
- ensure that a Personal Education Plan is completed (within 20 days of entering care or joining a new school). This should be prepared with the carer/s (and parent/s if possible), in liaison with the social worker and other relevant support workers/agencies. Where appropriate, the PEP should take account of any Individual Educational Plan (IEP), Individual Behaviour Plan (IBP), or any other relevant plans. The PEP should inform, and be reviewed termly.

- ensure that each Looked After Child has an identified member of staff that they can talk to
- co-ordinate support for the child in the Academy and liaise with other professionals and carers as necessary;
- ensure staff and governors receive relevant information and training
- ensure confidentiality for individual children and only share personal information on a need to know basis;
- provide written information to assist planning/review meetings and ensure attendance as far as possible;
- seek urgent meetings with relevant parties where the child is experiencing difficulties.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF ALL STAFF

- as with all children, have high aspirations and celebrate the educational and personal achievement of Looked After Children;
- Respond appropriately to requests for information to support the completion of PEPs and other documentation needed as part of review meetings;
- liaise with the Designated Teacher where a Looked After Child is experiencing difficulty;

ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITY OF THE GOVERNING BODY

The governing body of this school will:

- [nominate a governor](#) who links with the Designated Teacher, to receive regular progress reports. The designated governor should provide feedback to the governing body. [This is Mrs N. Jones.](#)
- ensure that admission criteria prioritise LAC.
- ensure all governors are fully aware of the legal requirements and Guidance for Looked After Children;
- ensure that there is a named Designated Teacher for Looked After Children;
- for child protection and confidentiality reasons, ensure that information will be collected and reported in ways that preserve the anonymity, and respect the confidentiality of the pupils concerned.

TRAINING

The Principal / Designated Teacher will be responsible for ensuring all staff are briefed on the regulations and practice outlined in the guidance from the DCSF and DoH (as above).

REVIEW DATE:

This policy is to be reviewed every two years. Next review will be Spring 2014.