



Federation of Beckwithshaw & Kettlesing Felliscliffe Schools and Ripley Endowed CE School

Children Looked After (CLA) and Children Previously Looked After (CPLA) Policy

Objective

To promote the educational achievement and welfare of Children Looked After (CLA) and Children Previously Looked After (PLA) across the Federation.

Name of the Designated Teacher for CLA and PLA: Headteacher

Name of the Designated School Governor for Safeguarding: Anne Vetch

Across our Federation, we create an environment where children looked after (CLA) and children previously looked after (PLA) have access to excellent educational provision and are prioritised for additional support through school-based interventions, in accordance with the 'DfE Designated teacher for looked-after and previously looked-after children Statutory guidance for local-authority-maintained schools carrying out duties for looked-after and previously looked-after children. 28th February 2018.

We recognise that our schools play a vital role in providing a stable base for CLA and PLA in promoting their academic, social and emotional development. We promote staff training in their specific needs, so that all adults are sensitive to the barriers to learning that CLA experience and feel able to support the children discretely and confidentially, as needs arise.

Our Federation aims to champion the needs of CLA and PLA to ensure they make rapid progress during their period in care.

Our Aims for CLA

- To provide a safe and secure environment where education is always central to the planning and all adults understand the specific needs of CLA and PLA.
- To narrow the gap between the attainment of CLA and PLA and their peers, ensuring accelerated and rapid progress.
- To ensure that CLA benefit from school-based interventions, even if they do not fully meet the criteria for that intervention (DfE Designated teacher for looked-after and previously looked-after children Statutory Page 2 of 5 guidance for local-authority-maintained schools carrying out duties for looked-after and previously looked-after children. 28th February 2018) and to use the allocated Pupil Premium Plus (PP+) to ensure effective impact.
- For all CLA to have a minimum of three Personal Education Plans meetings in an academic year and for the joint planning to actively impact on each child's learning on a daily basis, to ensure accelerated and rapid progress (DfE Designated teacher for looked-after and previously looked-after children Statutory guidance for local-authority-maintained schools carrying out duties for looked-after and previously looked-after children. 28th February 2018).
- For all adults to provide discreet, sensitive, child-led support, with one key adult identified who will form a strong relationship and take a special interest in daily life at school.
- That schools' systems facilitate discrete support, as appropriate.

- To ensure CLA will be advantaged within school policies and procedures, with their needs explicitly considered and provided for (DfE Designated teacher for looked after and previously looked-after children statutory guidance for local-authority maintained schools carrying out duties for looked-after and previously looked-after children. 28th February 2018). Links to other relevant school policies that reference CLA and PLA may be found here including our Safeguarding and Child Protection policy.
- CLA and their foster families will feel part of the school community; they will be actively welcomed into the community in recognition of the particular needs of this group (DfE Designated teacher for looked-after and previously looked-after children Statutory guidance for local-authority-maintained schools carrying out duties for looked-after and previously looked-after children. 28th February 2018).

Educational Planning for Children Looked After

Personal Education Plans (ePEP) and CLA Self Evaluation Forms (CLASEF):

The school will ensure that every CLA on roll has a Personal Education Plan (ePEP) meeting that is reviewed termly, within the statutory care planning framework, and in collaboration with the social worker, carer and other relevant professionals.

The school will complete the CLASEF to inform the NYCC Virtual School of the school's policy and practice, to account for the efficient and effective spend of the PP+ funding and to inform the school Governing Body on the annual report.

Roles and Responsibilities

The Headteacher and Governing Body are committed to promoting improved educational life chances for CLA and PLA. They will ensure that the Designated Teacher for Children Looked After has qualified teacher status, appropriate seniority in the leadership team and time and experience to fulfil this statutory role. They will monitor the role of the Designated Teacher to ensure that all CLA and PLA make accelerated and rapid progress and that the whole school staff receives appropriate training.

The Designated Teacher for Children Looked After and Children Previously Looked After will be a qualified teacher, and will promote improved educational life chances for CLA and PLA by:

- Ensuring that the CLA or PLA has access to quality first teaching.
- Tracking the progress of CLA and PLA across the curriculum using data, teacher reports and work scrutiny.
- Ensuring that the PP+ is used effectively and efficiently.
- Performing a coordinating role with school staff and outside agencies.
- Ensuring effective communication with the Federation's assigned Education Adviser from the Virtual School.
- Providing and attending training and offering advice to the whole school staff.
- Promoting a school culture which is supportive and has high expectations for CLA and PLA.
- Regularly reporting to the Governing Body on the attainment of CLA and PLA and school resource and staff training needs for working with this group.
- Prioritising CLA for school-based additional support, even when the young person does not meet the criteria (DfE Designated teacher for looked-after and previously looked-after children Statutory guidance for local-authority-maintained schools carrying out duties for looked-after and previously looked-after children. 28th February 2018).

All staff will promote improved educational life chances for CLA and PLA by:

- Reading the 'school policy' and 'school policy guidance document' for CLA.
- Attending training, as appropriate.
- Providing accurate information and data when asked by the Designated Teacher.
- Referring to the Designated Teacher for advice.
- Playing their part in creating an attachment and trauma-informed 'CLA-friendly' culture and securing rapid progress for CLA by ensuring that they benefit from any additional school-based support available.

Attendance

School attendance procedures reflect the specific needs of CLA and PLA to ensure good school attendance. Where there is a concern about attendance or punctuality the school contacts the carer, social worker and other professionals including the Virtual School, as an early intervention.

Admissions/Transitions

School procedures to support CLA during admission and transition include:

- The swift transfer of information between schools, that may include school visits at times of transition.
- Early identification of staff mentor and peer buddy.
- Additional support and planning for CLA and PLA at times of transition.
- Structured activities to 'say goodbye', in recognition of the impact of broken attachments and loss.

Additional Educational Needs

All staff endeavour to secure accelerated and rapid progress for CLA and PLA with additional educational needs by:

- Having high expectations.
- Ensuring that they are prioritised for additional school-based support, even if they do not meet the criteria (in line with the DfE Designated teacher for looked-after and previously looked-after children Statutory guidance for local-authority-maintained schools carrying out duties for looked-after and previously looked-after children. 28th February 2018).
- Ensuring that planning is coordinated, appropriate interventions identified and teaching to the plan is systematic; ensuring that any work undertaken by non-teaching staff has teacher oversight.
- Ensuring that progress is regularly monitored and reviewed, against the expectation of progress each academic year, as agreed in the termly Virtual School visit, ePEP and CLASEF.

Special Educational Needs

All staff endeavour to secure accelerated and rapid progress for CLA who have special educational needs by:

- Having high expectation of minimum levels of progress each academic year (in line with the expectation set out in the ePEP and CLA-SEF).
- Ensuring that they are accessing school-based targeted support which is 'additional to and different from' the universal and additional needs provision (in line with the SEN Code of Practice).
- Ensuring that all plans are coordinated, appropriate interventions identified, and teaching to the plan is systematic.

- Ensuring that progress is regularly monitored and reviewed, in line with the SEN Code of Practice.
- Ensuring that any work undertaken by non-teaching staff has teacher over-sight.

Safeguarding

School staff will be vigilant for any safeguarding issues which can impact particularly on CLA by:

- Familiarising themselves with the 'School Policy Guidance for Children in Care' and following the Federation's safeguarding and child protection policy and the 'DfE: Keeping Children Safe in Education' September 2020, if there are any safeguarding concerns.

Alternative Provision

We will make every effort to ensure that any arrangements for provision alternative to daily attendance at school will be:

- A plan that will retain the CLA on the roll of the school or clarify in writing which educational establishment will be responsible for essential reporting and accountable for the PP+.
- An agreed part of the overall ePEP for the student.
- Full time (25 hours) or contribute to full time attendance and be of high quality.
- Meet the educational needs of the CLA or PLA.
- Will provide the opportunity to make rapid progress in the course of study provided by the setting.
- Will be monitored regularly and that ePEPs will include the school and the alternative provider.

Exclusion

We will make every effort to avoid excluding a CLA and PLA, in recognition of the increased risk this poses in terms of them quickly disengaging from the school because of their early experience of broken attachments and loss.

Before acting, we will discuss the rationale for exclusion with the assigned Education Adviser from the Virtual School. If there is no option other than exclusion, then we will make every attempt to reduce the number of days of the exclusion.

School procedures are in place to reduce the risk of exclusion of CLA and PLA. CLA and PLA with special educational needs should have exclusion as a behaviour management action as a last possible resort (Regulation 4(1)(c) of the Equalities Act 2010 which means that a head teacher could only lawfully exclude a child for a reason relating to their disability, even a disability that results in the child having a tendency to physical abuse, if reasonable adjustments have been made).

Multi-Agency Working

School staff will make every effort to engage with colleagues from other agencies and facilitate their work. This will enable colleagues to successfully perform their roles and positively impact on the education and wider needs of CLA and PLA.

Document Status			
Date of Next Review	Autumn 2023	Responsibility	<i>HT/SENCo/SEND Governor</i>
Date of Policy Creation	Federation written policy	Responsibility	Headteacher

Date of Policy Adoption by Governing Body: Autumn 2020	Signed
Method of Communication: Staffroom	

- Names updated June 2022

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