



Looked After Children (LAC) Policy

July 2024

Review: July 2025

Introduction

Looked After Children (LAC) and previously Looked After Children are one of the most vulnerable groups in society and it is nationally recognised that there is considerable educational under achievement when compared to other groups. Raising levels of achievement has been strongly and clearly highlighted as a major part of improving the life chances of Looked After Children and schools play a pivotal role in this.

The Trust is committed to ensuring that all children receive access to a broad and balanced curriculum which motivates and inspire them to learn. The gaps in LAC, and previously LAC learning – and in many cases the emotional impact of their experiences – are likely to have become significant barriers to their progress, the school therefore carries out careful planning, monitoring and evaluation to ensure the best possible outcomes for our LAC, and previously Looked After Children.

The Trust's aims are to ensure that all children within our schools gain a first-rate education, develop the skills necessary for the next stage in their lives and are equipped with the personal values and attributes that will make them successful in a fast-changing world.

The Beyond Schools Trust welcomes all children and is committed to ensuring that every pupil has access to the full range of activities and educational opportunities in their school and is able to reach their full potential. It recognises that the most vulnerable students need to have access to the best facilities and a full range of options. It aims to ensure children in care have a continuity of complete engagement in the curriculum.

Definition of “Looked After Children and previously Looked After Children”

In UK law, children in care are referred to as ‘looked after children’. A child is ‘looked after’ if they are in the care of the Local Authority for more than 24 hours. Legally, this could be when they are:

- living in accommodation provided by the local authority with the parents’ agreement
- the subject of an interim or full care order or, in Scotland, a permanence order
- the subject of an emergency legal order to remove them from immediate danger
- in a secure children’s home, secure training centre or young offender institution
- unaccompanied asylum-seeking children.

A previously looked after child is one who is no longer looked after in England and Wales because s/he is the subject of an adoption, special guardianship or child arrangement order which includes arrangements relating to with whom the child is to live, or when the child is to live with any person or has been adopted from ‘state care’ outside England and Wales.

The Trust expects each school to appoint a teaching member of staff as the Designated Looked-After Teacher (DLACT) and to arrange for appropriate training and support for them. This applies even when the school currently has no Looked After Children on roll.

The Trust will work with other schools, Medway Local Authority and other agencies to ensure the best outcomes for all children.

Links with – Admissions, Curriculum, Behaviour.

Diversity (equality) impact assessment. All children given access to the curriculum and enabled to achieve/attain.

Monitoring arrangements – Local Governing Body may appoint one or more Governors with a special interest in Looked After Children to liaise with the DLACT. The Local Governing Body will regularly monitor the attainment/achievement and progress of Looked After Children (LAC). The Local Governing Body monitor specifically the portion of the budget designated for Looked After Children and evaluate its impact.

Risk Assessment

Area	Risk	Managed by Procedure
Child protection	These are children already on the register	All
Financial	Escalating provision costs	Provision mapping
Achievement and Attainment	Children not achieving/attaining	Provision mapping
Business continuity	Reputation	Provision mapping
Other		

Date of CEO approval: July 2024

Review arrangements including date of review: July 2025

Statutory guidance - DfE

Promoting the education of Looked-After and previously Looked-After Children

School procedures – must have

Arrangements for DLACT, deputy and support
Provision mapping (with costs)