



Looked After Children Policy

Signed by:	
Head Teacher	Mr. Duggan-Seville
Chair of Governors	Mrs. Deborah Gardner
Date Adopted	April 2024
Date of Last Review	Autumn 2024
Date of Next Review	Autumn 2027
Designated Person	Mr. Glenn Duggan-Seville head@inkberrowprimary.worcs.sch.uk

Definition

Looked After Children (LAC) are defined as:

- Children or young people who are the subject of a Care Order or Interim Care Order under the Children Act 1989.
- Children who are placed in foster care, children's residential homes or with relatives or friends.
- Children subject to a Care or Interim Care Order whilst placed with a parent, where the LA has parental responsibility.
- Children who are not subject to an order, but are accommodated by the LA under an agreement with their parents.

Previously Looked After Children are defined as:

- Children who are no longer looked after by a Local Authority in England and Wales because they have either been adopted or are the subject of an adoption, special guardianship or child arrangements order.
- Children who were adopted outside England and Wales from "state care" (care that is provided by a public authority, religious organisation or other organisation whose main purpose is to benefit society).

Our Commitment

Inkberrow Primary School recognises that Looked After Children may have very specific needs and may be coping with trauma, abuse or rejection, and are likely to experience personal distress and uncertainty.

We believe that all Looked After Children have a right to expect the best possible outcome from their education. We are committed to enhancing the achievement and welfare of Looked After Children in the following ways:

- Having high expectations for the child and ensuring equal access to a balanced and broad based curriculum.
- Promoting good communication between all those involved in the child's life and listening to the child.
- Maintaining and respecting the child's confidentiality wherever possible.
- Ensuring staff awareness of, and sensitivity to, the difficulties and educational disadvantages of Looked After Children.
- Ensuring an appropriately trained Designated Teacher is appointed, who will be responsible for Looked After Children.

- Recording, monitoring and improving the academic achievement of the child in addition to their health and wellbeing.
- Achieving stability and continuity.
- Prioritising reduction in exclusions and promoting attendance.
- Promoting inclusion through challenging and changing attitudes.
- Ensuring that all Looked After Children have a Personal Education Plan (PEP) drawn up between the school, the child and the child's social worker, which will identify the child's individual needs and the support they require.

Legal Framework

- Children Act 1989
- The Care, Planning, Placement and Case Review (England) Regulations 2010
- Children (Leaving Care) Act 2000
- Children and Young Persons Act 2008
- Children and Families Act 2014
- Children and Social Work Act 2017
- DfE (2018) Promoting the education of looked-after children and previously looked-after children
- DfE (2018) The designated teacher for looked-after and previously looked-after children
- DfE (2023) Suspensions and Permanent Exclusions from Maintained Schools, Academies and Pupil Referral Units
- DfE (2024) Keeping children safe in education
- DfE (2023) Working Together to Safeguard Children

This policy operates in conjunction with the following school policies and documents:

- Admissions Policy
- Behaviour Policy
- Anti-Bullying Policy
- Equality Policy
- Safeguarding Policy
- SEND Policy

Roles and Responsibilities

All staff and governors are committed to ensuring a safe and secure learning environment for all children and have high expectations of all pupils, including those in public care. Staff and governors are aware of the need for confidentiality and safeguarding in regard to any information about looked after children, including their care status.

The Governing Body/Governor for Looked After Children is responsible for ensuring that:

- The school has a clear and effective policy for LAC and previously LAC.
- A suitably qualified person has been appointed as designated teacher for children in care.
- The Designated Teacher receives appropriate support and training in order to fulfil his or her role.
- That the governing body receives a regular report on the performance of children in care.

The Head Teacher is responsible for:

- Reviewing the school's policies and procedures in conjunction with legislation and statutory guidance.
- Appointing the designated teacher for LAC and previously LAC and allowing that teacher the time and facilities to succeed in carrying out their duties.
- Liaising with the governing body to ensure the designated teacher has the opportunity to acquire, and keep up-to-date, necessary skills knowledge and training.
- Ensuring that all staff are aware who the designated teacher is and what their responsibilities are.
- Ensuring that all staff are aware of the powerful role they can play in significantly improving the quality of life and the educational experiences of children in public care.
- Ensuring LAC and previously LAC have equal access to all areas of the curriculum and that reasonable adjustments are made if necessary.
- Ensuring that the school has clear and effective protocols for gathering and sharing confidential information with the LA and other agencies.

The Designated Teacher will:

- Ensure a welcome and smooth induction for the child and their carer, using the Personal Education Plan to plan for that transition in consultation with the child's social worker.
- Promote good home/school links with carers.
- Keep a confidential and up-to-date record of all children in public care in the school regardless of which local authority has parental responsibility.

- Ensure that each Looked After Child has an identified member of staff that they can talk to. This need not be the Designated Teacher, but should be based on the child's own wishes.
- Promote an ethos of high expectation for all children in public care.
- Track academic progress and target support appropriately.
- Encourage Looked After Children to join in extracurricular activities and out of school learning.
- Ensure that all school staff are made aware of difficulties and disadvantages faced by looked after children generally.
- Ensure that school staff who need to know are aware of any specific issues faced by individual children in public care so their needs can be met.
- Liaise with social workers to ensure that all looked after children have a regularly updated Personal Education Plan.
- Liaise with other agencies as required, especially with regard to achievement, attendance and exclusions.
- Ensure that information is kept confidential and shared on a strictly need-to-know basis and that the views of children in public care are taken into account in the sharing of information about them and their care status.
- Ensure social workers and carers are aware of who the designated teacher is and what his/her role involves.
- Be responsible for the prompt transfer of information when a child changes school or when a child moves from one class/key stage to another.
- Report to the governing body on an annual basis regarding the number of children in public care in the school, how they have achieved, their attendance and details of any exclusions that may have occurred.

The Designated Teacher is Mr. Glenn Duggan Seville

Personal Education Plan for all Looked After Children

The Designated Teacher will work with social workers and other professionals to ensure that Personal Education Plans:

- Are in place within 20 days of joining the school, or coming into care.
- Are reviewed and updated every three months to reflect on successes and meet changing needs.
- Are made available for statutory care plan reviews.
- Identify strengths as well as needs.
- Include a review of previous educational targets and the setting of clear, measurable new ones.

- Record the child's interests and talents both in and out of school.
- Reflect, and are informed by, other educational plans such as PSPs and provision maps.
- Record and reflect the child's view.

Training

- The Head Teacher and Designated Teacher for LAC will ensure that they keep up-to-date with developments relating to the education and attainment of Looked After Children.
- The Head Teacher/Deputy Head Teacher will ensure that members of staff receive relevant training and support to enable them to work sympathetically and productively with Looked After Children, including those pupils who are under-achieving or at risk of under-achieving or who have additional needs. These may include EAL, being academically more able or having learning or physical needs.
- The Head Teacher/Designated Teacher for LAC will ensure that the SENDCo and any other staff with responsibility for Special Educational Needs provision, and for children who are academically more able, are informed of those Looked After Children who have particular gifts, talents or learning needs and will work with them appropriately.
- The Head Teacher and Designated Teacher for LAC will be responsible for ensuring all staff are briefed on the practice detailed in this policy.

Monitoring and Review

This policy will be reviewed by the Designated Teacher for LAC and the Head Teacher every two years.