



Looked After Children (LAC) Policy

Issue 1 – February 2017

Issue 2 – May 2018

Issue 3 – June 2021

Issue No.	Date	Approved	Signature	Revision Notes	Date Next Review
1	Feb. 2017				Spring 2018
2	May 2018				Summer 2020
3	June 2021				Summer 2022

RATIONALE:

It is recognised that Looked After Children are the most vulnerable group in our society and our schools. They are often living with the effects of trauma and loss and have had to cope with disruption in both their living arrangements and schooling. These experiences can mean there are barriers to learning.

All looked after children (LAC) have the right to receive a quality full time education which matches their needs and enables them to reach their full potential.

This policy is to be read in conjunction with:

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- The designated teacher for looked-after and previously looked-after children
- Statutory guidance on their roles and responsibilities - February 2018
- NCC Young People in Care – The Pledge

AIMS:

- To ensure that the school policies and procedures are followed for LAC as for all children
- Having high aspirations for LAC
- Ensure a personalised curriculum approach is taken in order to meet an individual child's needs, making all reasonable adjustments to achieve this and ensuring the curriculum is broad and balanced
- Promote early intervention when necessary to minimise risk of exclusion or reduced attendance
- Work with all agencies including the Virtual School, to ensure relevant support is sought to support LAC in school
- Use all appropriate funding mechanisms e.g. pupil premium, to accelerate progress
- Ensure Personal Education Plans are up to date and completed in order to support the education of the LAC
- Promote where possible LAC to participate in decisions around education
- Offer opportunities to join in school life including after school clubs, trips and activities

WHO ARE LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN?

- a child 'looked-after by a local authority' is one who is looked after within the meaning of section 22 of Children Act 1989 or Part 6 of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014;
- 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 arrangements order which includes arrangements relating to with whom the child is to live, or when the child is to live with any person³, or has been adopted from 'state care' outside England and Wales; and
- a child is in 'state care' outside England and Wales if s/he is in the care of or accommodated by a public authority, a religious organisation or any other organisation the sole or main purpose of which is to benefit society.

WHO IS THE DESIGNATED TEACHER?:

- A qualified teacher who has completed the appropriate induction period (if required) and is working as a teacher at the school (regulation 3(2)); or a head teacher or acting head teacher of the school (regulation 3(3)).
- The designated teacher must undertake appropriate training (section 20(2)).

Please see appendix 1

The Designated Teacher –

This member of staff will be responsible for:

- An advocate for the child in school and be at a level that can affect change if required
- Be responsible to ensure all statutory duties of the school are carried out e.g. report to Governors, ensuring PEP is up to date
- Know who the LAC are in school and hold confidential up to date records
- Be in liaison for agencies, carers, social workers and Virtual School staff around educational needs of the LAC
- Attend relevant meetings including the statutory looked after reviews and the PEP meetings or designate an appropriate replacement
- Be the key person in school or ensure the LAC has a key person in school to ensure wishes and feelings are heard and the child is confident in school
- Actively monitor attainment and progress of LAC in school and intervene early to ensure appropriate progress can be made
- Attend training on needs of LAC in educational settings and ensure knowledge disseminated through the school staff so that consistency and understanding is the ethos of the school
- Be the point of contact for other schools for transitions at key times, year 6 to 7, outward transfers
- Ensure that all funding available to support LAC education is used effectively to close the gap (in line with the Authorities Closing the Gap Strategy)
- Co-ordinate with the SENCO if the LAC has SEN in accordance with the code of practice for SEN

ADMISSIONS

A looked after child or young person may enter the school mid-term and will be made welcome and accommodated in order to settle.

The Admissions Code 2010 prioritises looked after children for admissions and also children formally looked after and now adopted or with carers under special guardianship/residency orders.

Sunnyside Spencer Academy will work closely with other schools and authorities to ensure no delays are encountered for LAC being admitted.

EXCLUSIONS

Sunnyside Spencer Academy recognises that LAC are very vulnerable to exclusion due to the trauma and loss they have experienced affecting their ability to engage in the school setting.

Should a LAC become at risk of exclusion (fixed or permanent) we will alert the Virtual School immediately and work with all agencies to avoid wherever possible exclusion.

Our Behaviour Policy reflects the standard of behaviour expected however we will work flexibly and proactively to ensure LAC are not excluded.

RECORD KEEPING

LAC in school should have a personal education plan (PEP) within 20 days of becoming looked after.

If a child moves to Sunnyside Spencer Academy as a LAC then an up to date PEP should be part of the record exchange from previous educational settings. The PEP is an important document for supporting the educational needs of LAC and should be supported by documents already used in school to ensure progress and attainment are monitored appropriately.

Looked after reviews are a statutory meeting and may require a report which will be held in a confidential file (CPOMS).

LAC in school have a confidential file on CPOMs which holds relevant information to support the children or young person in an educational setting.

Details of carers, birth parents, social workers etc. are kept in the confidential file (CPOMS) with contact information in case of an emergency being readily available as with other children in the school.

Should a LAC have to leave school the Designated Teacher will ensure, as soon as they are aware of which school the LAC has moved to, are forwarded and contact made with the Designated Teacher of the receiving school.

PARTNERSHIP WORKING

Sunnyside Spencer Academy will proactively work with:

- The Virtual School
- Social Care Staff
- Parents/ foster carers
- All other agencies e.g. CAMHS

to support the education of the LAC in our school.

GOVERNING BODIES

At Sunnyside Spencer Academy the Safeguarding Governor will have specific responsibility for LAC in school. This Governor will receive a report from the Designated Teacher on the progress and attainment of the LAC in school annually. Confidentiality requires this report not to contain named children and young people and the report will not be published as a public document.

The Governor will ensure that all allocated funding to support LAC in school is spent appropriately to support educational progress e.g. pupil premium plus.

The Governor also ensures that this policy is adhered to and will offer to support the school in any way that will positively promote the welfare and progress of LAC within school.

RACIAL, EQUALITY & EQUAL OPPORTUNITES STATEMENT

All children will have equal and inclusive access to the curriculum regardless of their gender, race, disability or ability. Sunnyside Spencer Academy will ensure that everyone can work or learn in an environment that is free from racial intimidation and harassment and have the opportunity to achieve their full potential.

Appendix 1: Designated Teacher for LAC at Sunnyside Spencer Academy

Name	Role	Role for LAC	Date of Training
Emily Hall	Assistant Head of School	Designated Teacher for LAC	7.7.21
Laurie Baczynski	Principal	Deputy Designated Teacher for LAC	7.3.21
Dianne Raynor	Governor	LAC Governor	