



# Looked After Children

Spring Term 2022

## Introduction: 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). LAC will have a care manager who arranges their care plan.

The governing body of Elloughton Primary School is committed to providing quality education for all its pupils, 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. 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
- 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 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 child and the carer/s (and parent/s if possible), in liaison with the social worker and other relevant support worker/agencies. Where appropriate, the PEP should take account of any Individual Support Plan (ISP), Pastoral Support Plan (PSP), Individual Behaviour Plan (IBP), or any other relevant plans. The PEP should inform and be reviewed.
- Ensure that each Looked After Child has an identified member of staff that they can talk to



## Elloughton Primary School: Policies, Procedures, Codes & Guidance

- Ensure entry to examinations for all Looked After Children
- Co-ordinate support for the child in the school 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;
- Encourage Looked After Children to participate in extra-curricular activities and out of hours learning;
- Seek urgent meetings with relevant parties where the child is experiencing difficulties and/or is in danger of being excluded.

### Roles and Responsibilities Of All Staff:

- As with all children, have high aspirations and celebrate the educational and personal achievement of Looked After Children
- Ensure entry to examinations for Looked After Children;
- Be familiar with the Guidance on Looked After Children and respond appropriately to requests for information to support the completion of PEPs and other documentation needed as part of review meetings;
- Liaise with the LA Virtual School where a Looked After Child is experiencing difficulty.

### Roles and Responsibilities of The Governing Body:

The governing body of this school will:

- Ensure that admission criteria (Aided and Foundation) prioritise LAC, according to the Code of Practice on Admissions
- 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; this is currently Hannah Stillings.
- Nominate a governor who links with the Designated Teacher, receives regular progress reports and provides feedback to the governing body; this is currently Mrs L Hemmingway.
- 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.
- Review the effective implementation of this policy, preferably annually and at least every three years.
- Ensure that the school's other policies and procedures give looked after children equal access in respect of:
  - ❖ Admission to school
  - ❖ The National Curriculum and public examinations
  - ❖ Additional educational support where this is needed. Extra curricular activities.

### Training:

The Head Teacher and Designated Teacher will be responsible for ensuring all staff are briefed on the regulations and practice outlined in the guidance from the DfE and LA's.



## Elloughton Primary School: Policies, Procedures, Codes & Guidance

### Adoption, Approval, Sign Off

Signed	Hannah Stillings
On behalf of	Headteacher
Date	Spring Term 2022

### Document Control

Title of document	Looked After Children Policy
Revision number	2
Review frequency	3 years
Next review date	Spring Term 2025
Type or status	Policy
Statutory?	Yes
Notes	