

St Bede's Catholic Voluntary Academy



Looked after children policy

"We commit ourselves to love, respect and serve one another as disciples of Jesus Christ"

Date of approval	November 2022
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Policy for Looked After Children at St Bede's Catholic Voluntary Academy

The Governing body of St Bede's Catholic Voluntary Academy 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 children in residential and foster care, when compared with their peers. It is committed to implementing the principles and practice as outlined in: Section 52 of the Children Act 2004 (educational achievement and PEP's); the joint DfES/DOH Guidance May 2000 (designated teachers and key duties); Section 106 of the Education Act 2005 (Admissions) and adhering to the North Lincolnshire Protocols, Procedures and Guidance for Improving the Education and Health of Children in Care "Creating Success for Children in Care".

Aims:

- To ensure that all Looked After Children (See Appendix 1) expect and experience the same outcomes as their peers – that they should:
 - Be healthy
 - Stay safe
 - Enjoy and achieve
 - Make a positive contribution
 - Achieve economic well-being
- To promote and prioritise the achievement, attendance and general well-being of each 'looked after' child.

Responsibilities:

Governors

- There should be a designated governor who should ensure that information regarding looked after children is collated. The governor should report periodically to the governing body regarding looked after children and their achievement.
The designated governor is *Mrs J Kelly*.

The Designated Governor will:

- ensure the school has a current policy for looked after children
- ensure looked after children have equal access to all areas of the curriculum
- present the Governing Body with an annual report regarding all looked after children in the school

The Headteacher will:

- designate a teacher to take responsibility for the welfare and education of looked after children. The Designated Teacher is *Mr P Wade*. The Deputy named worker is *Ms L Busk*.
- ensure that the designated governor and the designated teacher attend all appropriate training
- ensure that accurate attendance records are maintained for each looked after child and that regular liaison with the Education Welfare Service takes place as required.

The Designated Teacher will:

- ensure that any looked after child is made to feel welcomed and valued
- act as an advocate for looked after children in order to allow them equal access to educational opportunities and support with important decisions affecting future life chances.
- attend the PEP meeting and will ensure that the commitment made by the school is carried out in line with the North Lincolnshire PEP Format
- ensure that all necessary meetings take place, attending and contributing to them as necessary.
- Ensure, along with the social worker, that parents /carers receive all appropriate information and invitations to all relevant meetings.

- monitor the educational progress of all looked after children and intervene, in co-operation with other school staff and other agencies if required, if there is evidence of underachievement, absence from school or internal truancy, or other similar areas of concern.
- keep a secure record of the young person's progress on the relevant online portal with all information for each child / young person. Access to this portal will be transferred promptly to the relevant new school if the child / young person moves educational establishment.
- link closely with class teachers/form tutor/Head of Year as appropriate
- ensure that all staff, through appropriate training, are aware of the difficulties and educational disadvantages faced by looked after children and that they understand the need for positive systems to support them, whilst maintaining high expectations for their educational achievement.
- Provide, where necessary, additional support to allow looked after children to access the curriculum effectively and catch-up on any work missed.

Admission Arrangements

Looked After Children are a priority for admission and, as such, we will follow the Local Authority published admission criteria.

Complaints

These will be dealt with under the school normal complaints procedure.

Appendix 1

The ways in which Children and Young People become Looked After

The term 'looked after' was introduced by the Children Act 1989. This refers to a child who is either accommodated (whereby the local authority provides for a child on an agreed basis with the person who has parental responsibility) or is subject to a care order (whereby a court order grants shared parental responsibility to the local authority in order to protect and promote a child's welfare). Children in both instances could be living with foster carers, in a residential unit, in a residential school, with relatives or even with parents on a part or full time basis.

Under the Children Act 1989, a child is 'looked after' by a local authority if he or she is in their care or is provided with accommodation for more than 24 hours by the authority.

Section 20 - Children who are accommodated under a voluntary agreement with their parents.

Section 38 - Children who are under the subject of a care order or an interim care order.

Section 31 - Children who are subject to a care order made by the courts. For the courts to grant a care order they have to be satisfied that a child is suffering or would suffer 'significant harm' without one.

Section 44 – Emergency Protection Order .

Section 46 – Police Protection Order.

With Section 44 and section 46 the Local Authority specifies contact arrangements during the period of the order.

Section 21 - Children who are compulsory accommodated. This includes children remanded to the local authority or subject to a criminal justice supervision order with a residence requirement.