

ST. STEPHEN'S CofE First School



Policy for Looked After Children


OUR VISION:

WE ARE COMMITTED TO THE CHRISTIAN ETHOS - EVERY CHILD IS SPECIAL IN THE EYES OF GOD AND WE TEACH THAT ALL PEOPLE SHOULD LOVE, CARE FOR AND RESPECT ONE ANOTHER AND OUR PLANET.

*It is our ambition that all our pupils use our 6 Christian values **Love, Compassion, Forgiveness, Integrity, Community and Respect** to achieve our vision and mission.*

'A New Commandment I give you, 'Love one another as I have loved you.' John 13:34

It is from this Commandment and the teachings of Jesus that we teach our children the six Christian values.

Recommended by:	SC
Recommendation Date:	18.09.2025
Ratified by:	Chair's Action/ LAGB
Signed:	
Position on the Board:	Chair of LAGB
Ratification Date	18.09.2025
Next Review:	September 2026
Policy Tier (Central/Hub/School):	School

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 Children Looked After will be living with foster parents but a smaller number may be in children's residential units, living with a relative or even be placed at home with their birth parents.

- The governing body of St. Stephen's Cof E First School are committed to providing quality education for all its pupils, based on equality of access, opportunity and outcomes.

For Looked After Children it is nationally recognised that there is considerable educational underachievement when compared with their peers and this governing body is committed to implementing the principles and practice as outlined in:

- DfE Statutory Guidance to Governing Bodies- 'Promoting the Education of children looked after and previously looked after children' February 2018
- Local Authority's duty under Section 52 of Children's Act 2004 to promote the education of Looked After 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 Looked After Children

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 parents/s where possible). Note any specific requirements including care status;
- Ensure that each Looked After Child has an identified member of staff that they can talk to;
- Ensure that a Personal Education Plan is completed within 20 days of entering care or joining a new school;
- 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 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 Designated Teacher where a Looked After Child is experiencing difficulty;

Role and Responsibility of the Governing Body

- Ensure that admission criteria and practice prioritises Looked After Children according to local authority's code of practice and the DfE Admissions Code of practice;
- 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 the Head teacher;
- nominate a governor who links with the Designated Teacher, receives regular progress reports and provides feedback to the governing body.
- 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 at least every three years
- Ensure that the school's other policies and procedures give Looked After Children access in respect of:
 - Admissions to school
 - The National Curriculum and public examinations
 - Additional educational support where this is needed. Extra curricular activities

Training

The Head Teacher, Designated Teacher and Professional Development Coordinator will be responsible for ensuring all staff are briefed on the regulations and practice outlined in the guidance from the DfE.