

LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN POLICY

The governing body is committed to providing a quality education for all its students based on equality of access, opportunity and outcomes. This policy includes requirements set out in “Statutory guidance on the duty on local authorities to promote the educational achievement of looked after children under Section 52 of the Children Action 2004” (Nov 2005) and associated guidance on the education of Looked After Children.

The Objective:

To promote the educational achievement and welfare of all looked after students on the roll of the school. Including those children who have previously been looked after.¹

The Name of the Designated Teacher for Looked After Children (LAC) for the school:

Ms Emily Paul

The Role of the Designated Teacher for Looked After Children

Within Eastbury Community School:

- To ensure that the educational achievement of each child looked after on roll is monitored, tracked and promoted and where relevant, accelerated;
- To ensure that there is an up to date Personal Education Plan or ePEP with SMART targets that will promote progress;
- To advise on most effective use of the Pupil Premium during the Personal Education Planning meeting.
- To ensure that the Pupil Premium funding and additional budget share funding (where relevant) is used to support the learning objectives for the student and to be accountable for how it is spent.
- To ensure that all staff, both teaching and non-teaching, are aware of the difficulties and educational disadvantage faced by children and young people ‘in care’ and understand the need for positive systems of support to overcome them;
- To inform members of staff of the general educational needs of children looked after and to promote the involvement of these children in school homework clubs, extracurricular activities, home reading schemes, school councils, etc.;
- To ensure that members of staff who teach the children looked after on roll provide accurate progress data and advice on specific learning targets to inform the Personal Educational Planning meeting;
- To act as an advocate for children and young people in care;

¹ For brevity “children previously looked after” are included as Looked After Children throughout this document

- To develop and monitor systems for liaising with carers and colleagues in Children's Services and birth parents or adoptive parents where appropriate;
- To hold a supervisory brief for all children in care, e.g. to ensure all relevant education and care information is available to school staff where relevant and carer(s), that this information is kept up to date and used on a need to know basis to help the student overcome obstacles to learning and progress;
- To track and support the educational progress of all children who are looked-after in order to inform the school's development plan;
- To intervene quickly if there is evidence of individual underachievement by use of the Pupil Premium Plus funding to accelerate progress;
- To intervene if there is evidence of individual underachievement, absence from school or internal truancy;
- To inform the planning and where relevant, transition for children looked after post 16.
- To ensure that the educational targets within the Personal Education Plan (PEP) are implemented fully, reviewed regularly and that all relevant staff are aware of them.
- To report to the Governing Body at least on an annual basis on the outcomes for children looked after
- To have completed the iLearn on-line learning module/s specifically for Designated Teachers and to attend other training as appropriate
- To ensure that school staff have an awareness of the impact of attachment disorder and pre-care trauma on learning;
- To support the Quality Assurance Process for PEPs and for schools on the implementation of the role and responsibility of the Designated Teacher working with children looked after

Work with Individual Looked After Children:

- To discuss with individual children, possibly alongside a carer, to arrive at a statement about their care arrangements and circumstances that they would be happy to share with staff and/or students;
- To enable the child to make a contribution to the educational aspects of their Care Plan;
- To ensure that the Pupil Voice section of the Personal Education Plan or ePEP is completed for each child and is the result of a one to one meeting so that the views of the student are faithfully represented in the PEP;
- To ensure that a Home-School Agreement is drawn up with the primary carer and signed by the Social Worker;
- To supervise the smooth induction of a new child looked after into the school.
- To develop in-school strategies to promote and accelerate the achievement of children looked after and close the gap between them and their peers.

- To fully support additional learning opportunities that may be available from the Virtual School and partner agencies.

Liaison:

- To liaise with the Safeguard lead in the school;
- To develop effective communication with Children's Services staff so that the Personal Education Plan or ePEP is congruent with the child's Care Plan;
- To attend, arrange for someone else to attend, or to contribute in other ways to care planning meetings and statutory reviews;
- To be the named contact for colleagues in Children's Services;
- To ensure the speedy transfer of information between schools, agencies and individuals, and report on the progress and attendance of all children in care on the school roll to the Virtual School as requested – progress and attainment data submitted each term.

Training:

- To develop knowledge of Children's Services procedures by attending training events organised by Children's Services, the Virtual School or local Designated Teachers cluster groups;
- To cascade training to school staff as appropriate.
- To attend the annual Designated Teachers' conference and participate in area cluster groups for additional training and to share good practice
- To keep informed of any updated guidance from Ofsted, DfE or other research or policy.

The name of a Governor with special responsibility for Looked After Children in the school:

Mr Roy Patient supported by Dr Helen Jenner

The role of that governor

The named governor will report to the Governing Body on an annual basis using the report from the Designated Teacher as source information:

- The number of looked-after students in the school;
- A comparison of progress as a discrete group, compared with those of other students in school and nationally;
- A comparison of attainment measures as a discrete group, compared with those of other students in school and nationally;
- The attendance of students as a discrete group, compared to other students;
- The level of fixed term/permanent exclusions; and
- Student destinations after leaving school.

The named governor should be satisfied that the school's policies and procedures ensure that looked-after students have equal access to:

- Full time educational provision – at least 25 hours;
- Public examinations;
- Additional interventions to support educational progress, e.g. One-to-One tuition
- Employment Excellence careers guidance;
- Additional education support;
- Extra-curricular activities;
- Work experience;
- The most effective use of the Pupil Premium to raise attainment.

The named Governor is encouraged to support the Quality Assurance Process for schools on the implementation of the role and responsibility of the Designated Teacher working with Looked After Children if offered to ensure and confirm the schools' best practice.

Sources of Additional Advice Policies

Promoting the education of Looked After Children (DfE statutory guidance for local authorities, July 2005)

Keeping Children Safe in Education, September 2018

The Children's Act, 2004

Director's Report to Governors , London Borough of Barking and Dagenham (Spring 2018)

Local Authority Contacts

Children's Services – childrenss@lbbd.gov.uk

LBBB Virtual Head – Janet.Cassford@lbbd.gov.uk

Local Authority Designated Official (LADO) and Safeguarding Lead for Education
Telephone 020 8227 3934 – Mike Cullern, mike.cullern@lbbd.gov.uk

Child Protection & Child in Need referrals
Duty Service; Telephone 020 8227 3811, childrenss@lbbd.gov.uk

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