



The Anthony Curton and Tilney All Saints Primary Schools 'Partnership

LOOKED AFTER AND PREVIOUSLY LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN POLICY



Approved Summer Term 2025

Review due Summer Term 2026

Signed on behalf on the Local Governing Body

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 Looked after Children 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 both primary schools are committed to providing quality education for all its pupils, based on equality of access, opportunity and outcomes. We fully subscribe to the 5 outcomes of Every Child Matters and, therefore, the Government's aim for every child, whatever their background or their circumstances, to have the support they need in order to:

- Be healthy
- Stay safe
- Enjoy and achieve
- Make a positive contribution
- Achieve economic well-being

For Children Looked After or Previously Looked After 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 Promoting the education of looked-after and previously looked-after children (Feb 2018)
- Children Act 2004, specifically

“The duty to safeguard looked after children, to promote their educational achievements and to ensure they are able to achieve and reach their full potential”

The Guidance recognises the collective responsibility of carers, local authorities, VSH (Virtual School Head) and educational settings to achieve good parenting and sets out these key principles:

- to act in the best interest and promote the physical and mental health and wellbeing of children and young people
- to encourage children and young people to express their views, wishes and feelings
- to take into account the views, wishes and feelings of children and young people
- to help children and young people gain access to, and make the best use of, services provided by the local authority and its relevant partners
- to promote high aspirations and seek to secure the best outcomes for children and young people

- for children and young people to be safe, and for stability in their home lives, relationships and education or work
- to prepare those children and young people for adulthood and independent living

This governing body is committed to ensuring that Designated Teachers and staff are enabled to carry out their responsibilities effectively to ensure that to the best of our ability we achieve the above.

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 workers/agencies. Where appropriate, the PEP should take account of any additional support plans in place. The PEP should inform and be reviewed within time frame
- ensure that each Looked After Child has an identified member Key Person within school
- ensure entry to examinations for all Looked After Children
- co-ordinate support for the child in the schools 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
- 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

The governing body will:

- ensure that admission criteria 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
- 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 annually and at least every three years
- ensure that the schools ' 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. Extracurricular activities
 - Work experience and careers guidance.

Training

Designated staff for SEND, and Looked After and Previously Looked After Children will attend necessary training as appropriate.

Current SENDCo- Miss Lauren Bland (with effect from 1st September 2025).

Current LAC Co-ordinator Miss Lauren Bland