



LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN POLICY

Date of Policy/Reviews	Author(s)	Approved by Gov. Body	Signed	Date for Review
Nov 2016	Dave Whiting			Nov 2019
Nov 2019	Dave Whiting			Nov 21

LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN POLICY

The Objectives of the Policy

At Rosehill Methodist Primary Academy we will continually strive to ensure that everyone is treated with respect and dignity. Each person will be given fair and equal opportunities to develop their full potential regardless of their gender, transgender, ethnicity, culture and religious background, sexuality, disability or special educational needs and ability. The school will work actively to promote equality and foster positive attitudes and commitment to an education for equality.

We are committed at Rosehill to promoting the educational achievement and wellbeing of looked after pupils. We do this by:

- Sharing Christian values with all;
- Respecting the individual difference of all;
- Providing exciting learning experiences for all;
- Fulfilling the potential of all;

Definition of Looked After Children

Under the Children Act 1989, a child is looked after by a local authority if s/he is in their care, or is provided with accommodation for more than 24 hours by the authority. They fall into 4 main groups:

- Accommodated under a voluntary agreement with parents
- Full Care Order or Interim Care Order
- Emergency Protection Order
- Compulsory accommodated (this includes remanded to the Local Authority)

The term 'in care' refers only to children who are subject to a Care Order by the courts under Section 31 of the Children Act 1989. The Local Authority acquires parental responsibility which it shares with the parents. These children may live with:

- Foster carers
- In a children's home
- In a residential school
- With relatives, or even with parents (under supervision).

Children who are cared for on a voluntary basis are 'accommodated' by the Local Authority under Section 20 of the Children Act. They may live with:

- Foster carers
- In a children's home
- In a residential school
- Or even, very unusually, with parents

The name of and role of designated teacher for Looked After Children.

Mr David Whiting (Assistant Head Teacher)

The above named person should:

- Ensure that all staff, both teaching and non-teaching, are aware of the difficulties and educational disadvantage faced by children who are looked after and understand the need for positive systems of support to overcome them.
- Inform members of staff of the general educational needs of children who are looked after, and to promote the involvement of these children in school homework clubs, extra curricular activities, home reading schemes, school councils, etc.
- Ensure all relevant education and care information is available to school staff and carer(s), and that this information is kept up to date.
- Monitor the educational progress of all children who are looked after in order to form part of the school's development plan.
- Liaise with outside agencies and keep all parties informed of any issues that may have arisen
- Ensure that each Looked After child has a Personal Education Plan (PEP) and that it is reviewed on a termly basis.
- Ensure that the reviewed Personal Education Plan is forwarded to Tameside Virtual School

Name of Named Governor

The named governor for Looked After Children is Rev Karen Hilsden

The named governor will report to the Community Committee of the Governing body on an annual basis the following:

- The number of children who are looked after in the school.
- A comparison of progress as a discrete group, compared with those of other pupils.
- The attendance of pupils as a discrete group, compared to other pupils.

The named governor should be satisfied that the school's policies and procedures ensure that children who are looked after have access to:

- The National Curriculum
- Extra Curricular Activities
- Additional Educational Support if needed

Responsibility for Children in Care in the Academy

It is important that all teaching staff who are in contact with the child or young person are aware that he/she is being looked after by the local authority. The responsibility for the transfer of this information should be that of the Designated Teacher.

It is appropriate for a classroom support assistant to have knowledge that the young person is a looked after child only when directly involved in the teaching of the young person.

Admission Arrangements

E.g. On admission, records will be requested from the pupil's previous school. A meeting will be held as soon as possible with carer/parent/social worker/educational resource team to form part of the pupil's Personal Education Plan and clarify contact arrangements.

Involving the Looked After Child

It is important that the child is aware that information is being recorded regarding their personal circumstances. How this is shared with them clearly depends on their age and understanding

Communication with Other Agencies

Schools should ensure that a copy of all reports (e.g. end of year) should be forwarded to the young person's social worker, foster carer, residential social worker and child parents if deemed appropriate.

Services for Children & Young People, and schools, will need to exchange information between formal reviews if there are significant changes in the young person's circumstances, e.g. if school is considering an exclusion, there is a change of care placement or there are significant attendance issues.

Assessment, Monitoring and Review Procedures

Every looked after child will have a Personal Education Plan. This will identify specific areas of concern and achievable targets. A PEP meeting will be held each term and the completed paperwork will be sent to Virtual Schools and Children's Social Care.

The local authority

Areas for consideration will include:

- Attendance
- Achievement Record (academic or otherwise)
- Behaviour
- Homework
- Involvement in Extra Curricular Activities
- Relationship to Care Plan
- Special Needs (if any)
- Development Needs (short and long term development of skills, knowledge or subject areas and experiences)
- Long term plans and aspirations (targets including progress, career plans and aspirations)