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**Looked After Children Policy**

**Sept 2022**

**This policy has been signed by the Chair of Governors / Headteacher**

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| **Review date** | **Version number** | **By whom** | **Summary of changes made** | **Date implemented** | **Date ratified** |
| Sept 2020 | 2 | MA | No change from previous policy | Sept 2020 |  |
| **Sept 21** | **2.1** | **MA** | **Added arrangements re PEP / Talk and Sort** | **17.9.21** |  |
| **Sept 22** | **2.2** | **MA** | **No change**  | **Sept 22** |  |

**Alvaston Infant and Nursery School**

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##  Who are Looked After Children?

The term 'looked after' originates from the **Children Act 1989** and is the legal term for children in care. The terms 'children in public care' or 'children who are looked after' are also used.

 **When is a child 'looked after'?**

A child is looked after under the following circumstances:

* The child is in accommodation commissioned and provided by the Local Authority for more than 24 hours.
* The child is the subject of an Emergency Protection Order, Interim Care Order or Care Order either living at home or placed away from home with relatives, friends or local authority carers.
* The child is remanded to Local Authority Care.
* The child is subject to a Secure Order under the Children Act 1989.
* The child is placed for adoption but the adoption order has not been made.
* The child is an unaccompanied minor.
* The child is in receipt of a series of Short Term Breaks as part of a Family Support plan for periods of 24 hours or more. (These children are only looked after for the time that they are placed away from home and do not need to be on your register of Looked After Children; nor do they need Personal Education Plans.)

 **When is a child NOT 'looked after'?**

A child ceases to be looked after when:

* The child returns home to live and is not the subject of a Care Order or Interim Care Order or Emergency Protection Order.
* The child reaches independence and is not the subject of a Care Order.
* The child reaches 18.
* The child dies.
* The child is adopted.
* The child is made subject to a special guardianship order (SGO) or child arrangement order

**What guidance is there?**

Alvaston Infant and Nursery School is aware of and implements the guidance contained within the key documents outlined in Appendix 1 and specifically from the Governance Handbook (DfE Nov 2015, p46/47) which is outlined below:

1. Admission authorities are required, with some limited exceptions, to give priority to looked after children, children adopted from care under the Adoption and Children Act 2002 and those who left care under a ‘Special Guardianship Order’ or ‘Residence Order’ in their oversubscription criteria. The practical effect of this is that in a school’s published admission arrangements, the first and highest oversubscription criterion must be looked after children (see paragraph 1.7 of the Admissions Code). Provisions also apply to schools with a religious character and grammar schools (paragraphs 1.37 and 1.19 of the Admissions Code).
2. The law gives a local authority that looks after a child the right to direct the admission authority of any maintained school to give them a place. This applies, even where the school is currently full, or is in another local authority area (see paragraph 3.19 of the School Admission Code).
3. Boards of all maintained schools are required to appoint a designated teacher to promote the educational achievement of looked after children who are on the school roll. Academies are under an obligation to do this through their funding agreements.
4. Boards must ensure, as a minimum, that:
	* A designated teacher is appointed;
	* The teacher undertakes appropriate training;
	* It considers an annual report from the designated teacher; and
	* It acts on any issues that the report raises.
5. Regulations specify that the role should be carried out by:
	* A qualified teacher, within the meaning of section 132 of the Education Act 2002, who has completed the appropriate induction period (if required); or
	* The headteacher or acting headteacher at the school.
6. All looked after children have a personal education plan (PEP) as part of the care plan that is drawn up by the local authority that looks after them. The PEP forms part of the child’s education record.

**Allocation of Resources**

The Headteacher will oversee the progress of all Looked After and Post Looked After Children and will ensure that the Personal Education Plans (PEP) are updated and costed. The Headteacher will ensure that all PEP reviews are attended and will regularly review the progress of Looked after Children, communicating with Special Guardians and Legal Guardians, when needed. The Headteacher will ensure that Alvaston Infant and Nursery school allocates resources to support appropriate provision for Looked After Children (LAC) and the Governing Body will monitor that this has occurred.

We actively encourage and support staff to attend courses that help them to acquire the knowledge and skills needed to support LAC. And staff are aware of other safeguarding concerns that may arise due specific experiences that they may have. The Headteacher will develop awareness with school staff and Governors of issues associated with LAC and this will be delivered through safeguarding training.

All children who have been looked after or previously looked after will receive a weekly session with our talk and sort champion so that there is a safe space for them to reflect and engage with activities that suit their needs, what every they may be.

Pupil Premium Plus funding will be applied for and used to “close the gap” in educational outcomes.

**Monitoring the progress of LAC**

The social worker for the LAC should initiate a Personal Education Plan – PEP - within 10 days of joining the school, or of entering care, and ensure that the young person is actively involved. It is vital that the school assesses each LAC’s attainment on entry to ensure continuity of learning.

The school will monitor and track the achievement, attainment and progress of all LAC at regular intervals. LAC will require their PEP to be reviewed, according to their needs, as initiated by the Reviewing Officer, Social Worker or Headteacher.

The young person’s views should be sought by the Headteacher Teacher and noted on the PEP.

The Headteacher will know who are all the LAC in school and will have access to their relevant contact details including parents, carers and social worker, PEPs and attainment and progress data. The Headteacher will also know about any LAC from other Local Authorities. It is important that the school flags LAC status appropriately in the school’s information systems so that information is readily available as required.

## Partnership working

At Alvaston Infant and Nursery school we firmly believe in developing a strong partnership with parents/carers and care workers to enable LAC to achieve their potential. LAC Review meetings and PEP meetings are an opportunity to further this partnership working.

We also recognise the important contribution that external support services make in supporting LAC. Colleagues from the following support services may be involved with individual LAC:

* + Derby City Virtual School for LAC
	+ Educational psychologists and SEN services
	+ Medical officers
	+ CAMHS
	+ Education Welfare Officers
	+ Social Care Workers/Children’s Practitioners
	+ School nurses

## LAC policy review and evaluation of the effectiveness of the school’s provision for LAC

## The LAC policy will be reviewed annually.

## The policy will be reviewed as legislation dictates or in September 2023

## APPENDIX 1- Role and Responsibilities of the Designated Teacher including the role of the Governing Body

(<https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/683561/The_designated_teacher_for_looked-after_and_previously_looked-after_children.pdf>

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