



# Meadow View Primary School

## Looked After Children Policy January 2021

Review date: September 2021

### Looked After Children (LAC) Policy

Looked After Children are one of the most vulnerable groups in society. Helping Looked After Children succeed and providing a better future for them is a key priority for Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council and for Meadow View Primary School.

We recognise we have a major part to play in ensuring that Looked After Children are enabled to be healthy, stay safe, enjoy, achieve, make a positive contribution to society and achieve economic well-being.

We, as a school community, aim to be champions for Looked After Children and take a proactive approach to support their success, recognising that we have a vital role to play in promoting their social and emotional development.

We intend, through this policy, to promote the inclusion, wellbeing and achievement of Looked After Children.

Meadow View Primary School strives to ensure that the culture and ethos of the school are such that all pupils should be provided with the opportunity to experience, understand and celebrate diversity.

The Children Act (1989) introduced changes in terminology. The term “in care” refers to children subject to care orders. Children who are cared for on a voluntary basis are “accommodated” by the local authority. Both these groups are said to be “Looked After Children”. They may be looked after by Rotherham authority or may be looked after by another authority.

- Children accommodated under a voluntary agreement with their parents (Section 20)
- Children subject to a Care Order (Section 31)
- Children subject to an Interim Care Order (Section 38)
- Children subject to Emergency Orders for the protection of the child (Section 44)
- Children who are compulsorily accommodated – this includes children remanded to the care of the local authority or subject to criminal justice supervision order with a residence requirement (Section 21)

A Looked After Child may be in residential care, a foster placement or could be living with their parents under supervision.

**This policy takes account of:**

- The Children Act 2004, Section 52, which places a duty on local authorities to promote the educational achievement of Looked After Children.
- The Education (Admissions of Looked After Children) Regulations 2010
- Relevant DCSF now DFE guidance to Governing Bodies (Supporting Looked After Learners.)
- The Children and Young Persons Act 2008
- Designated Teacher Statutory Regulations September 2009
- Associated guidance on the education of Looked After Children.

Our approach to encouraging and supporting Looked After Children is based on the following principles:

- Prioritising education
- Having high expectations
- Promoting inclusion
- Providing stability and continuity
- Early intervention and priority action
- Listening and involving children
- Promoting health and emotional well being
- Reducing exclusions and promoting stability
- Celebrating success
- Taking Corporate Parental responsibility

We recognise the value of working together with Parent, Carers, Social Workers support services and other professionals.

We will work in partnership with Rotherham's Virtual School and also other Virtual Schools from other authorities to enable each Looked After Child to reach their potential.

The Governing Body will ensure that the school has a Designated Teacher and that the Designated Teacher is able to carry out his/ her responsibilities effectively.

The Designated Teacher for Looked After Children is Susan Gregg, Assistant Head Teacher Inclusion.

The Deputy Designated Teacher for Looked After Children is Jenni Logan, Head Teacher.

The Designated Teacher has a key role to play, but we recognise that all staff and all Governors have important and complementary parts to play also.

## **THE ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITY OF THE DESIGNATED TEACHER**

Section 20 of the Children and Young Persons Act 2008 places a duty on the Governing Body to appoint a Designated Teacher as having responsibility to promote the educational achievement of Looked After Children.

### **The Designated Teacher:**

- Ensure that all Safeguarding procedures are followed for Looked After Children in line with Meadow View's Child Protection Policy.
- Ensure that all Looked After Children who are travelling to and from school by taxi are chaperoned by an approved named person.
- Ensure that school have been provided with a list of contact dates and that the identity of the contact worker collecting the child has been verified.
- Ensure a welcome and smooth induction for the child and their carer.
- Promote a culture in which Looked After Children believe they can succeed.
- Know all Looked After Children in school, including those looked after from other authorities
- Act as an advocate for Looked After Children and ensure their voice is heard.
- Enable each Looked After Child to contribute to their education plan.
- Assess each Looked After Child's attainment
- Ensure the Personal Education Plan is a record of what needs to happen for Looked After Children to enable them to fulfil their potential
- Ensure the Personal Education Plan reflects the importance of a personalised approach to learning which secures good basic skills, stretches aspirations and builds life chances
- Ensure that the educational targets set within the plan are implemented and monitored.
- Ensure that targets set are realistic and challenging and reflect our high expectations for Looked After Children.
- Ensure that the Personal Education Plan is current and available in time to inform the first and subsequent review meetings.
- The PEP will be reviewed regularly and as appropriate to meet the needs of the child.
- Maintain records of all Looked After Children including those looked after by other authorities.
- The Designated Teacher will keep up to date with relevant policies and procedures.
- Attend relevant training and disseminate information and good practice
- Ensure effective assessment, recording and monitoring.
- Ensure that each Looked After Child has an identified member of staff that they can talk to. This need not be the Designated Teacher but should be based on the child's own wishes.
- Co-ordinate any support that is necessary within school.
- Maintain confidentiality for individual pupils, sharing personal information on a need to know basis, considering the wishes of the child.
- Encourage Looked After Children to join in extra-curricular activities and out of school learning.
- The Designated Teacher should attend or ensure a representative attends planning and review meetings where requested.

- Ensure that staff in school receive relevant training and act as an advisor to staff and to Governors.
- Set up urgent meetings with relevant parties when the child is experiencing difficulties in school or at risk of exclusion.
- Ensure the speedy transfer of information between individuals, agencies and if the child changes school
- Work in partnership with The Virtual School and other Virtual Schools from other authorities to provide termly information and data on the position and progress of Looked After Children.
- Ensure all staff are familiar with the requirements of this policy
- Report to the Governing Body each term or at least on an annual basis on the position progress and outcomes for Looked After Children and the impact of funding – The Pupil Premium.
- Influence school policy and practice for Looked After Children

### **THE ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITY OF ALL STAFF**

- Identify, monitor and report any Safeguarding issues regarding Looked after Children in line with Meadow View Child Protection Policy.
- Ensure that Children travelling to and from school by Taxi are accompanied by a chaperone.
- Establish and verify the identity of any Social Worker/outside agency worker coming into school to speak to or work with a Looked After Child.
- Have high aspirations and expectations for the educational and personal achievement of Looked After Children.
- Celebrate the achievement of Looked After Children.
- Ensure that all Looked After Children are supported sensitively.
- Respond positively to a child's request to be the named member of staff whom they can talk to when they feel it is necessary.
- Respond promptly to the Designated Teacher's requests for information.
- Work to enable Looked After Children to achieve stability and success within school.
- Promote the self-esteem of all Looked After Children
- Maintain confidentiality; be sensitive to the wishes of the child.
- Effective assessment, monitoring and recording practices are established.
- Support the engagement of Looked After Children in out of schools hours learning.
- Identify timely any additional needs and Special Educational Needs in order to work in partnership to meet those needs.
- Follow Meadow View's late collection policy if children are not collected on time by carer/ taxi or contact worker. Inform the Designated teacher for Looked After Children when a child has not been collected on time.

### **THE ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITY OF THE GOVERNING BODY**

#### **The Governing Body will:**

- Ensure that the school has a Designated Teacher who is a qualified teacher and that the Designated Teacher is enabled to carry out his or her responsibilities.
- Support the Head Teacher, the Designated Teacher and other staff in ensuring that the needs of Looked After Children are recognised and met.
- Ensure that all governors are fully aware of the legal requirements and guidance on the education of Looked After Children.

- Ensure that the admissions criteria and practice prioritises Looked After Children
- Consider a termly report and as a minimum an annual report from the Designated Teacher on the progress and educational needs of Looked After Children.
- Allocate resources to meet the needs of Looked After Children.
- Ensure the Designated Teacher has the opportunity to attend training
- Nominate a Governor to take a special interest and liaise with the Designated Teacher. – The Designated Governor for Looked After Children is: Denise Everitt
- Ensure that school’s policies and procedures give Looked After Children equal access in respect of :
  - Admission to school
  - National Curriculum Tests/Examinations both academic and vocational
  - Out of school hours learning and extra curricular activities
  - Additional Educational support
  - Work experience opportunities and careers guidance
- Annually review the effective implementation of the school policy for Looked After Children

### **THE ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITY OF THE DESIGNATED GOVERNOR**

The Designated Governor will liaise with the Designated Teacher and report to the Governing Body on an annual basis:

- The number of Looked After Children on roll.
- Their attendance, as a discreet group, compared to other children.
- Their attainment and achievement as a discrete group, compared to other children.
- The number of children with up to date Personal Education Plans
- The number of children with SEN and statements
- The number of fixed term and permanent exclusions.
- The destinations of children who leave the school.
- The effectiveness of the Looked After Children’s Pupil Premium.

The information for this report will be collected and reported in ways that preserve the anonymity and respect the confidentiality of the pupils concerned.

Name of Designated Teacher: Mrs Susan Gregg

Name of Deputy Designated Teacher: Mrs Jenni Logan

Name of Designated Governor: Mrs Maaria Khan

**Date written: February 2021**

**Next review by: September 2021**