



Inspire Education Trust

Together we achieve, individually we grow

Looked After Children and Previously Looked After Policy

Blue Coat CE Secondary School

Policy Date: June 2023

Review Date: June 2026

Document History

Version	Status		Date	Author	Summary Changes
V1			June 2023	N. Phipps	p.3 Responsibility statement; p.4 reference to statutory guidance and responsibilities; p.5 Pupil Premium plus funding and name of designated person SLT

Introduction

At Blue Coat Church of England School, our vision is “Living life in all its fullness”. We exist to equip our students to ‘live life in all its fullness’ by providing excellent education, which is distinctively Christian and inclusive of all. At the heart of this education are the values of Care, Hard Work, Respect, Integrity and Servanthood, working Together for the good of all individuals, the school and wider communities. The conviction that we are created and sustained by God for living together in families and communities is at the root of our dedication to educating for life together.

Responsibility

The Inspire Education Trust Board of Directors have a responsibility for the oversight of this and all policies within the Trust’s academies and may delegate the implementation and review of this policy in accordance with our Scheme of Delegation.

The staff and governors of Blue Coat School are committed to providing quality education for all students, based on equality of opportunity, access and outcomes. We recognise that, nationally, there is considerable educational underachievement of Looked After Children (LAC) and Previously Looked After Children (PLAC), when compared with their peers, and additional support needs to be in place to help these students overcome their challenges and the barriers to learning that they face.

This policy incorporates requirements set out in the statutory guidance on local authorities to promote the educational achievement of Looked After Children (and Previously Looked After Children) under Section 52 of the Children Act 2004. It also takes into account statutory guidance issued under sections 20(4) and 20A(4) of the Children and Young Persons Act 2008, as well as other statutory guidance in relation to Looked After and Previously Looked After Children.

Definitions

A child is looked after if they are in the care of the local authority for more than 24 hours.

A Previously Looked After Child is one who is no longer looked after by a local authority in England and Wales because they are the subject of an adoption, special guardianship or child arrangements order, or they were adopted from ‘state care’ outside England and Wales.

Roles and Responsibilities of the Designated Teacher

The designated person must be a qualified teacher, ideally a senior member of staff who is able to influence decisions about teaching and learning, promoting the educational achievements of every LAC and PLAC within the school.

Responsibilities of the Designated Teacher include (this list is not exhaustive):

- Being a point of contact within the school for carers and parent.
- Be an advocate for Looked After and Previously Looked After Children;
- Ensure a smooth and welcoming induction for the student and carer/s and/or parent/s. Note any specific requirements, including care status;
- Ensure that each Looked After and Previously Looked After Child has an identified member of staff that they can talk to co-ordinate support for the child in the school and

- liaise with other professionals and carers as necessary;
- Ensure teachers have high expectations of LAC and PLAC and set challenging learning goals;
- Lead training with staff on matters relating to trauma, attachment and other related areas;
- Ensure individual Education Plans are completed in a timely and efficient manner for LAC children;
- Be responsible for the fair management and use of Pupil Premium Plus money to ensure it promotes the academic and social development of these students;
- Monitor and support the progress of all LAC and PLAC;
- Work with the Virtual School to ensure support is in place where necessary.

The way in which the role of the designated teacher is carried out varies from school to school. Not all aspects of the role of the designated teacher need necessarily be carried out by a single individual or by a qualified teacher. Although overall responsibility for the support and progress of LAC and PLAC lies with the designated teacher, schools are able to decide how to support the students within their own circumstances.

At Blue Coat the role of the Designated Teacher is undertaken by a member of the Senior Leadership Team who oversees the support provided within school at a strategic level. However, managing the support of students on a daily basis is undertaken by a full-time member of the safeguarding team who also acts as the (P)LAC Coordinator. This member of staff works closely with the students, social workers and carers to ensure support is in place. In addition, the school employs a number of pastoral members of staff, each of whom are trained in trauma informed approaches, who support the students should any needs arise.

Roles and Responsibilities of Staff

- As with all students, have high aspirations and celebrate the educational and personal achievement of Looked After and Previously Looked After Children ;
- Ensure entry to examinations for Looked After and Previously Looked After Children;
- Be familiar with the challenges faced by Looked After and Previously Looked After Children, attend relevant training (such as trauma informed approaches and attachment training), 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 and Looked After Coordinator where a Looked After or Previously Looked After Child is experiencing difficulty.

Roles and Responsibilities of the Governing Body

The governing body of this school will:

- Ensure that admissions criteria prioritise LAC and PLAC, according to the Code of Practice on Admissions;
- Ensure that there is a named Designated Teacher for Looked After and Previously 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 school's other policies and procedures give children in care equal access in respect of:
 - Admission to school
 - The National Curriculum and public examinations
 - Additional educational support where this is needed
 - Extra-curricular activities
 - Work experience and careers guidance.

Pupil Premium Plus Funding

Looked After Children are entitled to additional funding to help improve their outcomes and narrow the gap between themselves and their peers. This Pupil Premium Plus funding is tied directly into the students' Personal Education Plan (PEP), which is agreed at regular meetings with the social worker and the Virtual School. Funding attached to the PEP is spent directly on the agreed material and is accountable to the Virtual School.

Blue Coat is committed to ensuring the effective use of dedicated funding to provide personalised support to improve outcomes for the students.

Previously Looked After Children are also eligible for Pupil Premium Plus funding which comes directly to the school. This funding is designed to support the closing of the gap between this group and their peers. This funding, as of that for LAC, is not a personal budget for individuals but is allocated to prioritise supporting PLAC. At Blue Coat, this is used to meet the needs of students through many different means including (but not limited to) additional tutoring, revision resources, pastoral support, access to the school counsellor and SEMH provision (such as the Thrive Approach). Parents are welcome to discuss the allocation of PP+ with the Designated Teacher if they wish.

Designated Teacher	Ms Dhanda Assistant Headteacher
LAC Coordinator	Mrs Lucie Turner
Designated LAC Governor	Mrs Lyn Johnson

Changes	<p>The addition of 'Previously Looked After' to 'Looked After' throughout this policy.</p> <p>Amendment of definitions to include PLAC.</p> <p>Clarification of responsibilities of the DT with the addition of a number of bullet points.</p> <p>Clarification of the role of the DT and the LAC Coordinator in Blue Coat.</p> <p>Addition of staff responsibility in relation to training on trauma and attachment and the removal of this from a later section.</p> <p>Change throughout the document of 'Children in Care' to 'Looked After Children'.</p> <p>Addition of section relating to use of PP+ funding.</p>
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Reviewed by:

Neil Phipps


Next Review Date:

June 2023

Approved by Governors:

June 2026

Signed:



Victoria Shelley
Headteacher



Chair of Governors