

Beeston Primary School



Children who are Looked After (CLA) Policy

Date agreed by Governing Body	Autumn 2021
Review date	Autumn 2022
Person(s) responsible for this policy	Mrs L Jackson

Summary

This policy is in reference to pupils who are 'Looked After' by the Local Authority.

Recommendation

Governors are requested to read this policy, consider its content and approve its adoption. This policy should be reviewed annually.

Nationally, Children who are Looked After (CLA) significantly underachieve and are greater risk of exclusion compared with their non-CLA peers. We recognise that we have a major part to play in ensuring that CLA are enabled to become healthy, stay safe, enjoy, achieve, make positive contributions to society and achieve economic well being.

Beeston Primary School believe that, in partnership with Leeds City Council Virtual School we have a duty to safeguard and promote the education of CLA.

Who are CLA?

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

- children who are accommodated under a voluntary agreement with their parents (section 20)
- children who are the subjects of a care order (section 31) or interim care order (section 38)
- children who are the subjects of emergency orders for their protection (sections 44 and 46)
- children who are compulsorily accommodated – this includes children remanded to the local authority or subject to a criminal justice supervision order with a residence requirement (section 21).

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 - they may live with foster carers, in a Children's home, in a residential school, with relatives or 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 in foster care, in a Children's home or in a residential school. All these groups are said to be CLA. They may be looked after by our local authority or may be in the care of another authority but living in ours.

CLA reviews, involving the school, will take place up until an adoption order has been granted. However, Pupil Premium Plus funding will continue for CLA until they are 16 years old.

Our Aims for CLA are:

- To provide a safe and secure environment, where education is valued and there is a belief in the abilities and potential of all children
- To support our looked after children and give them access to every opportunity to achieve to their potential, enjoy learning and take as full a part as possible in all school activities
- To ensure that school policies and procedures are followed for CLA as for all children.
- To work with the Virtual School and ensure that carers and social workers of CLA pupils are kept fully informed of their child's progress and attainment.
- To fulfil our schools' role as corporate parents to promote and support the education of our CLA pupils

Our Approach

Our school's approach to supporting the educational achievement of CLA is based on the following principles:

- Prioritising education

- Promoting attendance
- Targeting support
- Having high expectations and raising aspiration
- Promoting inclusion
- Achieving stability and continuity
- Early intervention and priority action
- Listening to children
- Promoting health and well-being
- Minimising exclusions and promoting stability
- Working in partnership with carers, social workers and other professionals

Our Responsibilities

We will:

- Nominate a Designated teacher for CLA who will act as their advocate and co-ordinate support for them (see appendix 1)
- Nominate a school governor to ensure that the needs of CLA in the school are taken into account at a school management level and to support the Designated Teacher (see appendix 1)
- Support the Designated teacher in carrying out their role by making time available and ensuring that they attend training on CLA

The responsibilities of the Designated Teacher (DT) are to:

- Know who all the CLA are in school and ensuring that availability of all relevant details from school record-keeping systems as required.
- Attend relevant training about CLA and acting as the key liaison professional for other agencies and carers in relation to CLA
- Promote a culture of high expectations and aspirations for how CLA should learn.
- Help school staff understand the types of issues that may affect the learning of CLA
- Making sure that CLA are prioritised in one-to-one tuition arrangements and that carers understand the importance of supporting learning at home.
- Removing the barriers to learning for CLA.
- Ensuring any CLA new to the school are welcomed positively and assessed when they start at the school to identify strengths and weaknesses in their learning. This will be used to inform planning and teaching.
- Developing personalised learning packages for CLA in conjunction with the relevant teaching staff.
- Ensuring that the CLA in their school have a voice in setting learning targets for themselves
- Championing for CLA.
- Leading on developing and implementing the PEP within the school. The social worker is responsible for initiating the PEP process completing the front page of the PEP form.
- Monitoring the child's progress against the targets on the PEP and extending these targets if they have been achieved.
- Ensuring the child makes a smooth transition to the new school and that the child's records are transferred without delay.
- Liaising with the Virtual School in all aspects of the CLA progress and support.

- Convening urgent multi-agency meetings if a CLA is experiencing difficulties or is at risk of exclusion.
- Arranging for a mentor or key worker to whom the young person can talk to. Arranging for the CLA to be supported by its peers.
- Reporting to governors on progress and attainment of CLA pupils
- Promoting good home-school links and the importance of education as a way of improving life chances for CLA.

The responsibility of the governing body is to:

- Support the local authority in its statutory duty to promote the educational achievement of looked after children.
- Ensure that the DT is given the appropriate level of support in order to fulfil their role.
- In partnership with the head teacher, ensure that, through their training and development, the DT has the opportunity to acquire and keep up-to-date the necessary skills, knowledge and training to understand the respond to the specific teaching and learning needs of LAC.
- Governing bodies and the SLT should make sure that the DT role contributes to the deeper understanding of everyone in the school who is likely to be involved in supporting LAC to achieve.

This policy links with a number of other school policies and it is important that Governors have regard to the needs of CLA when reviewing them:

- Behaviour Policy
- Anti-bullying Policy
- Equal Opportunities Policy
- Safeguarding Policy
- Special Educational Needs Policy

The school will champion the needs of Looked After Children, raise awareness and challenge negative stereotypes about them, in order to ensure that they achieve to the highest level possible.

Appendix 1

Nominated designated teacher for CLA is:

Lianne Jackson

Nominated governor is:

Lindsey Hegarty