



# CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER POLICY

**Date of Last Review:** February 2016

**Date of Next Review:** May 2019

**Responsibility:** Mr P. Murphy

**Advisory Body Signature:**



**This policy was updated to acknowledge the changes in Keeping Children Safe in Education (Sept 2016).**

The Ravensbourne School believes it has a special duty to safeguard and promote the education of children looked after. The School understands the powerful role it can play in significantly improving the quality of life and the educational experiences of these students.

A school ethos which promotes respect for all students, values diversity and does not tolerate bullying is a necessary foundation and The Ravensbourne School has policies and practice embedded in a whole-school approach to meet this need.

Therefore this policy should be read alongside Policies on:

- Safeguarding
- Behaviour,
- Attendance
- Inclusion
- PHSCE,
- Racial Equality,
- SEND,
- Anti-bullying.

There is however compelling evidence that reliance on a supportive whole-school approach is not enough on its own. Children in care may be overlooked without specific policies and practices to highlight their needs.

The educational achievement of children looked after in general remains unacceptably low. That is why the Children Act 2014 places a duty on local authorities to promote the educational achievement of these students. The Care Planning, Placement and Case Review (England)(Miscellaneous Amendments) Regulations 2013 and Adoption from Care Planning(Miscellaneous Amendments) Regulations 2014 To ensure that The Ravensbourne School meets the educational, social and emotional needs of looked after students the school will:

1. Designate a nominated teacher and governor for looked after students to be an advocate for these students within school, providing an opportunity for their views to be heard and their feelings made known.
2. Maintain a current list of looked after students including contact information and change of care status and ensure the electronic data concerning looked after students is correct.
3. Closely monitor the progress and attendance of looked after students and provide suitable interventions if necessary, having regard to the outcomes from Every Child Matters.
4. Ensure each child looked after has a Personal Education Plan (PEP) that reflects the student's achievements and targets.
5. Work in partnership with all professionals (including virtual school heads), parents and carers of looked after students.
6. Attend and contribute to LAC reviews as required. Termly meetings should now be held.

7. Keep Governors informed in a yearly report on the achievement of children in public care so they are able to fulfil their duties to these students.

**To include:**

- a. The number of looked-after pupils on the school's roll
  - b. Their attendance, as a discrete group, compared to other pupils.
  - c. Their end of year attainment, levels, grades, GCSE results, and other qualifications achieved, as a discrete group, compared to other pupils.
  - d. The number of fixed term and permanent exclusions (if any) for LAC pupils.
  - e. The destinations of LAC pupils who leave the school.
  - f. The information for this report should be collected and reported in ways that preserve the anonymity and respect the confidentiality of the pupils concerned.
8. Ensure top priority for children looked after in the school's admission policy (Section 106 of the Education Act 2005)
  9. Seek to address behavioural issues for children looked after to avoid exclusion.
  10. Ensure the designated teacher has training for their role and keeps all staff informed on issues concerning children looked after.
  11. Liaise with other schools and educational providers to facilitate the effective transfer of students, recognising that for some looked after students change of care placement will result in school transfer during the school year.
  12. Communicate high expectations and celebrate the achievements of our looked after students.
  13. Work closely with the Virtual School Team to ensure adequate provision.
  14. Close liaison with the Virtual School Headteacher as per Keeping Children Safe in Education (September 2016)
  15. To keep up to date with current legislation and updated guidance from the DfE.