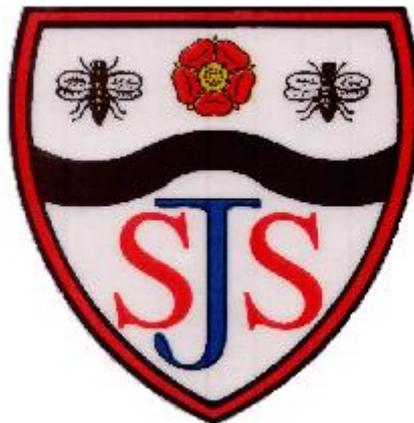


Shadsworth Junior School

Looked After Children Policy



Approved by:

Jackie Gallagher

Date:

Last reviewed on:

Summer 2019

Next review due by:

Summer 2020

Aim of the Policy

At Shadsworth Junior School we promote the educational achievement and welfare of Looked After Children.

Designated Teachers for Looked After Children are:

- Mrs Hetherington – Headteacher
- Chris Mooney – Pupil Wellbeing Co-ordinator

Context and Principles

Nationally, Looked After Children significantly underachieve and are at greater risk of exclusion compared with their peers. We acknowledge that as a school we have a major part to play in ensuring that Looked After Children are enabled to be healthy, stay safe, enjoy, achieve, make positive contribution to society and achieve economic well being in line with the Every Child Matters outcomes.

This policy takes account of all related legislation and guidance including

- DfES Statutory Guidance Bodies: Supporting Looked After Learners@2006
- The Education (Admission of Looked After Children) (England) Regulations 2007.
- The Local Authority's duty under section 52 of the Children Act 2004 to promote the education of looked after children (LAC).

Shadsworth Junior School's approach to supporting the educational achievement of Looked After Children is based on the following principles.

- Having high expectations
- Promoting inclusion through challenging and changing attitudes
- Promoting attendance
- Early intervention and priority action
- Targeting support
- Minimising exclusions
- Achieving continuity and promoting stability
- Listening to children
- Promoting health living and well being
- Working in Partnership with carers, social workers and other professionals

Actions

As for all our pupils, Shadsworth Junior School is committed to helping every looked after child to achieve the highest standards they can, including out of school activities and supporting career aspirations for further and higher education. This can be measured by improvements in their achievement and attendance.

The Governing Body of Shadsworth Junior School is committed to providing quality education for all pupils and will adhere to the following statutory requirements in respect of looked after children:

- Ensure a designated Teacher for Looked after Children is identified and enabled to carry out the responsibilities set out below.
- Ensure a Personal Education Plan (PEP) is put in place, implemented and regularly reviewed in line with statutory and BwD guidance on PEP's for every Looked after Child. This will be the responsibility of the Designated Teacher.
- Identify a Nominated Governor for Looked After Children.

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

- Behaviour Policy
- Discipline Policy
- Home School Agreement
- Anti-Bullying Policy
- Equalities Policies
- Policy on Racial Harassment
- Child Protection Policy
- Special Educational Needs Policy

Shadsworth Juniors will ensure that the needs of looked after children are reflected in all aspects of our provision e.g. through assemblies, PHSCE etc.

We will raise awareness and challenge negative stereotypes, in order to ensure that they achieve the highest possible level.

Responsibility of the Head Teacher

- Identify a designated teacher for Looked After Children, whose role is set out below. Cover arrangements will need to be in place should the designated teacher not be available to carry out these legal duties.
- Ensure that procedures are in place to monitor and track the admission progress, attendance and exclusions of LAC and that appropriate action is taken where outcomes fall below expectations.
- Report on the progress, attendance and conduct of looked after children.
- Ensure that all staff receive relevant training and are aware of their responsibilities under this policy and related guidance

Responsibility of the Governing Body

- Identify a Nominated Governor for Looked after Children.

- Ensure that all governors are fully aware of the legal requirements and guidance on the education of looked after children.
- Ensure the school has an overview of the needs of all it's looked after children regardless of the originating authority.
- Allocate resources to meet the needs of Looked after Children.
- Ensure the school's other policies and procedures support their needs.

This Governing Body will:

- the academic progress of LAC, through an annual report from the Head Teacher.
- Ensure, where relevant, that looked after children are given top priority when applying for places in accordance with the school's Admissions Policy.
- Work to prevent exclusions and reduce time out of school, by ensuring the school implements policies, practices and procedures to ensure LAC achieve and enjoy their time at the school.
- Ensure the school has a designated teacher for looked after children and that they are enabled and supported, along with the Head Teacher and other staff, to carry out their responsibilities as below
- Receive a report each year setting out:
 - The number of looked after pupils on roll and dates of joining and/or leaving.
 - Their attendance, as a discreet group, compared to other pupils
 - Their results in SATs, as a discreet group, compared to other pupils.
 - The number and duration of fixed term and permanent exclusions as a discreet group, compared to other pupils.
 - The destination of pupils who leave the school
 - The information for this report should be collected and reported in ways that preserve the anonymity and respect the confidentiality of the pupils concerned.
- Ensure systems are in place to share the above annual report with School Improvement Partners and OFSTED in line with current statutory requirements.

The Role of the Designated Teacher

Government guidance says that the designated teacher should be 'someone with sufficient authority to make things happen; who should be an advocate for looked after children, accessing services and support, and ensuring that the school shares and supports high expectations for them.'

It is strongly recommended that this person should be a member of the Senior Management Team. Specialist training advice and support for the role of designated teacher will be provided by BwD. It should also be noted that the remit of OFSTED inspectors and School Improvement Partners now includes a specific focus on LAC, monitoring how the school has promoted their inclusion and attainment, and the effectiveness of joint working with other services involved with them.

Our Designated Teacher will:

- Ensure a welcome and smooth induction for the child and their carer, using the Personal Education
- Plan (PEP) to plan that transition with the child's social worker.
- Ensure the a PEP is completed with child, their social worker (if applicable), carer and other relevant
- people at least 2 weeks before the statutory reviews.
- Ensure that each looked after child has an identified member of staff they can talk to: this needs not
- be the designated teacher, as it will be based on the child's own situation and wishes. It should be
- noted that members of staff who take on this role may also need to make use of appropriate support
- from the school's pastoral staff and Designated Teacher for Child Protection.
- Track academic and other progress and target support appropriately.
- Co-ordinate any support for LAC that is necessary within the school and from outside.
- Ensure confidentiality for individual pupils, sharing personal information on a need to know basis.
- Facilitate and encourage looked after to join extra-curricular activities and maximise out of school
- learning opportunities e.g. 'gifted and talented' and 'aim higher' projects.
- Ensure as far as possible attendance at planning and review meetings.
- Act as an advisor to staff and Governors, raising awareness of the achievements as well as needs of Looked after Children.
- Set up timely meetings with relevant parties, (e.g. carer, social worker, birth family, other
- professionals), where the pupil is experiencing difficulties in school or at risk of exclusion.
- Ensure the speedy transfer of information between individuals, agencies and where appropriate between schools. Supporting transitions and planning when moving to a new phase in their education.
- Promote inclusion in all areas of school life.
- Actively monitor and prevent bullying in school by raising awareness through the school's anti-bullying policy.

The responsibilities of all Staff

All our staff will:

- Have high aspirations for the educational and personal achievement of LAC as for all pupils.
- Maintain looked after children's confidentiality and ensure they are supported sensitively.
- Respond positively to a pupil's request to be the named member of staff whom they can talk to when they feel it necessary.
- Respond promptly to the designated teacher's requests for information.
- Work to enable looked after children achieve stability and success within the school.
- Promote the self-esteem of looked after children.
- Have an understanding of the key issues that affect the learning of looked after children
- Be aware that 60% of looked after children say they are bullied, so work to prevent bullying in line with the school's policy.

The Head Teacher will ensure that all staff are briefed on the regulations and practice outlined in this policy.