

**THE KEY ALTERNATIVE PROVISION**

**EDUCATION OF LOOKED  
AFTER CHILDREN  
POLICY**

*Policy approved by: Management Committee*

*Date reviewed: May 2024*

*Next review date: May 2028 (every four years)*

### *Management Committee*

At **The Key Alternative Provision**, we believe that all looked after children have a right to expect the best possible outcome from their education. Our aim is to provide our students with the opportunities and skills to learn and progress both academically and socially.

- Many **Looked After Children (LAC)** have suffered disrupted learning and may have missed extended periods of school. The gaps in their learning - and in many cases the emotional impact of their experiences - are likely to have become significant barriers to their progress.
- For many **Looked After Children**, school life can be challenging. They may find it harder to trust adults; their educational experience may have been disrupted; their capacity to build and maintain relationships and friendships may be impaired.
- A supportive school can be the key to their success and can enhance their life chances. School can provide stability, a safe place in a turbulent world, an opportunity to achieve, be successful and excel and a route towards a more successful future
- For our **Looked After Children**, this centre aims to provide positive experiences and to offer stability, safety, continuity, and individual care and attention.

### **Objectives of the Policy**

To fulfil our centres role and support corporate parents by:

- promoting the educational achievement of **Looked After Children**
- promoting the educational attainment of **Looked After Children**
- promoting the welfare of **Looked After Children**
- promoting the participation of **Looked After Children**

This policy is written with reference to statutory guidance to governing bodies issued by the DfE under Section 20 of the Children and Young Persons Act 2008.

### **1. Roles and Responsibilities**

All staff and the Management Committee are committed to ensuring a safe and secure learning environment for all children and have high expectations of all pupils, including those Looked After.

Staff and Management committee are aware of the need for confidentiality/safeguarding in regard to any information about looked after children including their care status.

The following people have additional responsibilities:

The named **member for LAC** will ensure:

That a suitably qualified person has been appointed as designated teacher for children in Looked After

That the school has a clear and effective policy for children Looked After

That the designated teacher receives appropriate support and training in order to fulfil his or her role.

That the Management Committee receives a regular report on the performance of Children Looked After.

The named member is: *Martin Fagan*

The **Centre Manager** will:

Be responsible for all systems to support children in care

Ensure that all centre staff are aware of the significant role they can play in significantly improving the quality of life and the educational experiences of children in public care

Recognise the importance of the role of the designated teacher and liaise with the MC to appoint an appropriately experienced teacher to that role

Liaise with the Management Committee to ensure the designated teacher has the opportunity to acquire, and keep up to date, necessary skills knowledge and training

Ensure that all staff are aware who the designated teacher is and what their responsibilities are.

Ensure that the centre has clear and effective protocols for gathering and sharing confidential information with LA and other agencies

The **Designated Staff Member** will:

Keep a confidential and up to date record of all children in public care in the school regardless of which local authority has parental responsibility.

Ensure all children in public care have met the designated staff and know what his or her role is.

Promote an ethos of high expectation for all children in public care

Ensure all children in public care feel welcome and valued and their achievements are recognised in an appropriate way (respecting the need for confidentiality about their care status).

Ensure that all centre staff are made aware of difficulties and disadvantages faced by looked after children generally.

Ensure that centre staff who need to know, are aware of any specific issues faced by individual children in public care, so their needs may be met.

Liaise with social workers to ensure that all looked after children have a regularly updated Personal Education Plan

Be responsible for the prompt transfer of information when a child changes school

Liaise with other agencies as required, especially with regard to achievement, attendance and exclusions

Ensure that information is kept confidential and that the views of children in public care are taken into account in the sharing of information about them and their care status.

Ensure social workers and carers are aware of who the designated teacher is and what his or her role involves promoting good home/ school links with carers.

Report to the Management Committee on an annual basis regarding the number of children in public care in the school, how they have achieved, their attendance and details of any exclusions that may have occurred

At present the designated staff are: *The Director (Joshua Fagan)*

## **2. Personal Education Plans for all Looked After Children**

The Designated Staff will work with social workers and other professionals to ensure that

#### Personal Education Plans:

- Are in place within 10 days of joining the centre, or becoming LAC
- Are made available for statutory care plan reviews
- Identify strengths as well as needs
- Include a review of previous educational targets and the setting of clear, measurable new ones
- Record the child's interests and talents both in and out of school/centre
- Reflect and are informed by other educational plans such as PsPs and IEPs
- Record and reflect the child's views.

#### **4. Training**

Designated staff and Management Committee will attend Local Authority and other training regarding the roles and responsibilities involved in the education of children in public care.

The Centre Manager and Designated Staff will be responsible for ensuring all staff are briefed on the practice detailed in this policy.