



LOOKED AFTER AND PREVIOUSLY LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN POLICY

WOLSEY HOUSE PRIMARY SCHOOL



HEADTEACHER: MR S. POWELL
CHAIR OF GOVERNORS: MR M. PEATFIELD

Looked After Children.

Under the Children Act 1989, a child is looked after by a local authority if s/he is in the care or is provided with accommodation for more than 24 hours by the authority. They include the following:

- Children who are accommodated by the local authority under a voluntary agreement with their parents (section 20);
- Children who are the subject of a care order (section 31(1)) or interim care order (section 38); and
- Children who are subject of emergency orders for the protection of the child (section 44)

Looked After is a term that refers to children for whom the Local Authority is sharing parental responsibility. This can happen either with parental agreement or when a Court makes a Care Order. The child may be living with foster carers, in a residential unit, with family members or sometimes with their parents. These children are therefore subject to corporate parenting.

Previously Looked After Children.

A previously looked-after child is one who is no longer looked after in England and Wales because s/he is the subject of an adoption, special guardianship or child arrangements order which includes arrangements relating to with whom the child is to live, or when the child is to live with any person, or has been adopted from 'state care' outside England and Wales.

The designated teacher will satisfy themselves that the child is eligible for support by asking the child's parents for evidence of their previously looked-after status. Where parents are unable to provide clear evidence of their child's status, designated teachers will need to use their discretion. In such circumstances designated teachers could discuss eligibility with the Virtual School Head (VSH) to agree a consistent approach.

Wolsey House Primary School recognises that Looked After Children and Previously Looked After Children may have very specific needs and may be coping with trauma, abuse or rejection, and are likely to experience personal distress and uncertainty.

'When dealing with looked after children and previously looked after children, it is important that all agencies work together and prompt action is taken when necessary to safeguard these children, who are a particularly vulnerable group.' KCSIE September 2024'.

Wolsey House Primary School's commitment to Looked After Children and Previously Looked After Children:

Nationally, Looked After Children (LAC) and Previously Looked After Children (PLAC) significantly underachieve and are at greater risk of exclusion compared with their peers. Their academic and social progress is likely to be affected by their experiences, and compounded by instability in their personal circumstances. Helping LAC and PLAC succeed and providing a better future for them is a key priority in our school.

Wolsey House Primary School recognises that Looked After children and Previously Looked After Children can experience specific and significant disadvantage within a school setting, and is committed to ensuring they reach their potential in all areas. We are aware that Looked After Children and Previously Looked After Children may have specific difficulties in transport and attendance, doing homework, getting parental consent for activities, obtaining funding for extra activities, obtaining correct uniform and equipment, as well as stigma about their circumstances.

Wolsey House Primary School is committed to enhancing the achievement and welfare of Looked After Children and Previously Looked After Children in the following ways:

- Having high expectations for the child and ensuring equal access to a balanced and broadly based education.
- Recording, monitoring, and improving the academic achievement of the child in addition to their health and wellbeing.
- Achieving stability and continuity.
- Prioritising reduction in exclusions and promoting attendance.
- Promoting inclusion through challenging and changing attitudes.
- Promoting good communication between all those involved in the child's life and listening to the child.
- Maintaining and respecting the child's confidentiality wherever possible.
- Ensuring staff awareness of, and sensitivity to, the difficulties and educational disadvantages of Looked After Children and Previously Looked After Children.
- Ensuring an appropriately trained Designated Teacher is appointed, who will be responsible for all Looked After children and Previously Looked After Children.
- All Looked After Children will have a Personal Education Plan (PEP) drawn up between the school, the child, and the child's social worker, which will identify the child's individual needs and the support they require.

RESPONSIBILITY OF THE HEADTEACHER

- Ensure that the Headteacher is fully aware of the statutory guidance from the Department of Education, issued under 20(4) and 20A(4) of the Children and Young Persons Act 2008 : *The designated teacher for looked-after and previously looked-after children: Statutory guidance on their roles and responsibilities – February 2018*
- Identify a Designated Teacher for Looked After Children and Previously Looked After Children (**Julie Cooper-Marsh**), whose role is set out below. It is essential that another appropriate person is identified quickly should the Designated Teacher leave the school or take sick leave. (**Steve Powell**)
- Ensure that procedures are in place to monitor the admission, progress, attendance and any exclusions of Looked After Children and Previously Looked After Children and take action where progress, conduct or attendance is below expectations.
- Report on the progress, attendance and conduct of Looked After Children to all parties involved.

- Ensure that staff in school receive relevant training and are aware of their responsibilities under this policy and related guidance.

RESPONSIBILITY OF THE GOVERNING BODY

- Ensure that all Governors are fully aware of the legal requirements and guidance on the education of Looked After Children and Previously Looked After Children. *The Education (Admission of Looked After Children)(England) Regulations 2006. Relevant DfES guidance to Governing Bodies (Supporting Looked After Learners: A Practical Guide for School Governors).*
- Ensure that all governors are fully aware of the statutory guidance from the Department of Education, issued under 20(4) and 20A(4) of the Children and Young Persons Act 2008 :*The designated teacher for looked-after and previously looked-after children: Statutory guidance on their roles and responsibilities – February 2018*
- Ensure the school has an overview of the needs and progress of Looked After Children and Previously Looked After Children.
- Allocate resources to meet the needs of Looked After Children and Previously Looked After Children.
- Ensure the school's other policies and procedures support their needs.
- Ensure that the school has a Designated Teacher, and that the Designated Teacher is enabled to carry out his responsibilities as below.
 - Support the Headteacher, the Designated Teacher and other staff in ensuring that the needs of Looked After Children and Previously Looked After Children are recognised and met.
 - Ensure that the designated teacher undertakes appropriate training (section 20(2))
 - Receive a brief report (appendix 1) once a year setting out:
 - 1. The number of looked-after pupils on the school's roll (if any).
 - 2. Their attendance, as a discreet group, compared to other pupils.
 - 3. Their Teacher Assessment, as a discreet group, compared to other pupils.
 - 4. The number of fixed term and permanent exclusions (if any).
 - 5. The destinations of pupils who leave the school.
 - 6. The information for this report should be collected and reported in ways that preserve the anonymity and respect the confidentiality of the pupils concerned.

THE ROLE OF THE DESIGNATED TEACHER

The Designated Teacher for looked after and previously looked after children –Statutory guidance on their roles and responsibilities – February 2018 require that the designated teacher:

- Is a qualified teacher who has completed the appropriate induction period and is working as a teacher at the school (regulation 3(2)); or
- A head teacher or acting head teacher of the school (regulation 3(3))

Our Designated Teacher will:

- Ensure that all the designated teacher is fully aware of the statutory guidance from the Department of Education, issued under 20(4) and 20A(4) of the Children and Young Persons Act 2008 :*The designated teacher for looked-after and previously*

looked-after children: Statutory guidance on their roles and responsibilities – February 2018

- Ensure a welcome and smooth induction for the child and their carer, using the Personal Education Plan to plan for that transition in consultation with the child's social worker (LAC only)
- Ensure that a Personal Education Plan is completed with the child, the social worker, the foster carer and any other relevant people, at least two weeks before the Care Plan reviews. (LAC only)
- Liaise and work with the Virtual School Head to promote the educational achievement of LAC and Previously LAC (**Our Virtual Head is Esther Popp - 0116 454 4332**)
- Ensure that each Looked After Child and Previously Looked After Children has an identified member of staff that they can talk to. This need not be the Designated Teacher, but should be based on the child's own wishes.
- Track academic progress and target support appropriately
- Co-ordinate any support for the Looked After Children and Previously Looked After Children that is necessary within school.
- Ensure confidentiality for individual pupils, sharing personal information on a need to know basis.
- Encourage Looked After Children and Previously Looked After Children to join in extra-curricular activities and out of school learning.
- Ensure, as far as possible, attendance at planning and review meetings.
- Act as an advisor to staff and Governors, raising their awareness of the needs of Looked After Children and Previously Looked After Children.
- Set up timely meetings with relevant parties where the pupil is experiencing difficulties in school or is at risk of exclusion.
- Ensure the speedy transfer of information between individuals, agencies and – if the pupil changes school – to a new school.
- Be pro-active in supporting transition and planning when moving to a new phase in education.
- Promote inclusion in all areas of school life.
- Be aware that 60% of Looked After Children and Previously Looked After Children say they are bullied, so will actively monitor and prevent bullying in school by raising awareness through the school's anti-bullying policy.
- Ensure that attendance is monitored.


THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF ALL STAFF

All our staff will:

- Have high aspirations for the educational and personal achievement of Looked After Children and Previously Looked After Children, as for all pupils.
- Maintain Looked After Children and Previously Looked After Children's confidentiality and ensure they are supported sensitively.
- Respond promptly to the Designated Teacher's requests for information.
- Work to enable Looked After Children and Previously Looked After Children achieve stability and success within school.

- Promote the self-esteem of all Looked After Children and Previously Looked After Children.
- Have an understanding of the key issues that affect the learning of Looked After Children and Previously Looked After Children.
- Be aware that 60% of Looked After Children and Previously Looked After Children say they are bullied so work to prevent bullying in line with the school's policy.
- The designated lead, will be responsible for completing PEP using EPEP, leading the PEP meeting and attending any relevant LAC Review meetings.

Signed:

 (Head teacher) August 2025

 (Chair of Governors) August 2025

To be reviewed: Autumn 2026

Looked After Child – Report to the Head and Governors.

Child...

No. of LAC on roll:

LAC attendance (%):

Other pupils' average attendance (%):

Teacher assessment:

	Autumn	Spring	Summer	Age-related expectation.
Reading				
Writing				
Maths				

No. of fixed term or permanent exclusions:

Destination of child at the end of the academic year: