



Policy for Promoting the Education of Looked After and Previously Looked After Children

MISSION STATEMENT

At St Anne's we aim to meet people where they are on their faith journey and accompany and guide them on their way to achieving their full potential. We strive to create a Catholic community which shares common beliefs and where, following Christ's example, we recognise the unique and equal value of each member. Our commitment to each person's growth is reflected in the quality of our school's provision which seeks to maintain the highest possible standards of achievement and outcomes for students post 16.

Policy Adopted: 14th June 2018

Review date: 14th June 2019

Signed:

(Chair of Governors)





1. How do we promote the education and welfare of our looked after and previously looked after children?

At St Anne's RC High School we:

- provide a safe and secure environment, which values education and believes in the abilities and potential of all children
- close the gap between the educational attainments of our looked after children, previously looked after children and our non-looked after children
- ensure that looked after and previously looked after children have access to educational opportunities appropriate to their age and ability and that this is actively promoted within the school curriculum. This includes access to a broad and balanced curriculum and to appropriate support.
- appoint a designated teacher for looked after and previously looked after children who will take an active role in promoting each young person's attainment and ensure that their wider needs are met. Our designated teacher will act as their advocate and coordinate support for them, liaising with carers, birth parents (as appropriate) and social worker on a wide variety of educational and care issues
- promote personalised learning

All staff and governors are committed to ensuring improved educational life chances for looked after children and previously looked after children by ensuring that the relevant personnel with responsibility for looked after children and previously looked after children have reasonable support and time to complete tasks and carry out their duties.

2. How do we achieve a whole school approach?

- our school celebrates the achievements of looked after children and previously looked after children
- all our staff have high expectations of the young person, encouraging achievement and ambition
- the young person will have a special, trusted adult in school who is able to take time to listen to them
- our staff are aware that being in care has a major impact on a child's life. Due consideration of this is given in all areas of the child's school life
- all our teachers are made aware of the needs of looked after children, previously looked after children and actively promote their best interests
- all adults in school are sensitive to the young person's wishes over what is known and by whom regarding their care status
- we ensure that looked after children and previously looked after children are listened to, and have access to support and counselling in school if required



- our teachers are aware of a variety of issues that may undermine the young person's ability to engage in the learning process including feelings of loss, rejection, isolation, confusion and low self-esteem
- our teachers are aware of possible unresolved feelings the young person may have about their own families and siblings, in addition to insecurity over their current homes and carers
- effective assessment, recording and reporting practices are established, in accordance with the school's assessment policy, for looked after children and previously looked after children
- systems are in place to keep staff up to date and informed about looked after children and previously looked after children
- teachers actively seek training to help them fulfil their roles in relation to looked after and previously looked after children, in particular, attachment and trauma training
- the designated teacher ensures that positive messages about behaviour and achievement are shared within the school and between school, carers and outside agencies and that high educational expectations are maintained
- our school supports the engagement of looked after and previously looked after children in out of school hours learning
- our staff work in partnership with parents, carers and agencies
- we support carers to value educational achievement and improve attendance; for young looked after children, there is clarity in relation to who is and who is not allowed to collect the child from school

3. Our designated teacher for looked after and previously looked after children is Kath Phillips (SENCo / Assistant Head teacher)

Our designated teacher will:

- ensure that the school does everything possible to maximise educational stability for the child
- robustly track the educational progress and attendance of all looked after children and previously looked after children on the school roll including Stockport LAC and LAC from other LAs (OLAs)
- maintain detailed individual records on all looked after children and previously looked after children
- prepare an annual report for the governing body and provide additional information as required
- promote a culture of high expectations and aspirations amongst the whole school community regarding looked after children and previously looked after children's achievements and attainment
- liaise with virtual school



- ensure that looked after children and previously looked after children have equitable access to school resources and initiatives, and ensure effective use of pupil premium plus
- ensure that every effort is made to enable looked after children and previously looked after children access all extra-curricular activities
- make sure the young person has a voice in setting their learning targets and reviewing their progress
- be a source of advice for staff about differentiated teaching strategies appropriate for individual children
- make sure that looked after children and previously looked after children are prioritised in one-to-one tuition arrangements and that carers understand the importance of supporting learning at home
- have the lead responsibility for the development and implementation of the child's personal education plan (PEP) within the school
- in conjunction with the social worker, ensure that the PEP is in place within 14 days of starting at our school and that it is circulated within 10 days of the PEP meeting
- ensure that the PEP is updated and available for the statutory LAC review
- help looked after children and previously looked after children make a smooth transition to their new school or college, including making sure there are effective arrangements in place for the speedy transfer of information
- ensure that school policies, e.g. home school agreements, are communicated to social workers and carers

4. Our designated school governor for looked after and previously looked after children is: Mrs A Fahy

- The governing body receives an annual report from the designated teacher which includes:
 - ◆ progress for each young person
 - ◆ patterns of attendance and exclusions
 - ◆ process or planning issues in relation to personal education plans
 - ◆ how educational needs are being met including for those who are more able
 - ◆ SEND; whether needs are being met through EHCPs or other SEND support plans
 - ◆ effective use of pupil premium plus
 - ◆ access to extra curricula activities
 - ◆ how looked after children and previously looked after children's needs are reflected in school development plans and are being met in relation to interventions and resources
 - ◆ training attended by the designated teacher
 - ◆ work with the Stockport virtual school and equivalents in other LAs
 - ◆ the impact of school policies on looked after children and previously looked after children



The governing body give careful and due consideration to the designated teacher's report and act on any issues it raises in order to maximise the impact of the support for the school's Looked after and previously looked after students.

5. Our virtual school link teacher is Debbie Marshall

We

- work in partnership with the virtual school
- contribute to regular monitoring meetings with the virtual school
- seek support from the virtual school when required
- notify the virtual school of any attendance issues, exclusions or changes in the child's circumstances
- provide the virtual school with data e.g., teachers assessments, targets, exam results, attendance rates, etc. as required

6. Personal Education Plans (PEPs)

We:

- hold and chair a PEP meeting and subsequent PEP reviews, in conjunction with the social worker
- ensure that there is a PEP for each child to include appropriate targets. This will be integral to the child's care plan held by social worker and form part of any other school plan e.g. EHCP, transition plan, pastoral support programme
- ensure, in conjunction with social workers, that all looked after children have a high quality PEP in place within 14 days of starting our school. PEPs will be effective and include SMART educational objectives and targets in the PEP action plan
- detail the effective, planned spend of the pupil premium plus, including costings and impact
- following the writing of a PEP, implement the educational recommendations in the PEP action plan ensuring that all relevant staff are clear about their responsibilities and tasks
- manage and review the PEP within expected timescales. The PEP will be reviewed termly and more frequently updated if required, e.g. change of care placement, action plan needs modifying, etc.
- circulate the PEP and PEP reviews to relevant people within 10 working days



7. Additional or Special Educational Needs or Disability

We:

- quickly identify additional needs and make appropriate provision within school resources
- ensure equal access to additional interventions, e.g. 1:1 tuition, etc
- ensure looked after children and previously looked after children are prioritised for referrals to the school's educational psychologist, Learning Support Service teacher and other agencies
- ensure that systems are in place to identify and prioritise underachievement and intervene at an early stage
- contact the virtual school as soon as concerns start to emerge
- collate all relevant paperwork and evidence if an EHCP assessment is likely to be required

8. Admissions and Transitions

We:

- ensure that all applications for new admissions or transfers are processed through Stockport's admissions team
- ensure that on admission or transfer all relevant information is obtained at the outset
- make every effort to provide continuity of schooling and educational experience
- prioritise looked after children and previously looked after children within school's own admissions procedures and aim to admit pupils in less than 20 days (if appropriate), following an education planning meeting as requested by the admissions team, recognising the importance of re-establishing school stability for looked after children and previously looked after children

9. Attendance

We:

- celebrate good attendance and encourage all parties concerned to continually promote good attendance
- establish a 'first day of absence' procedure where attendance becomes a problem
- inform the social worker when a child is absent for three consecutive days or more



- ensure that the school’s attendance officer communicates with the virtual school link teacher who may contact school to query attendance data

10.Exclusion

We:

- identify any looked after child or previously looked after child who is at risk of exclusion and contact virtual school, education access team, social worker and relevant professionals to put proactive strategies in place to avoid the looked after child or previously looked after child missing days from school
- avoid exclusion of a looked after child or previously looked after child whenever possible
- ensure, in the case of a fixed term (or permanent) exclusion, that the carer (or persons holding parental responsibility) and the social worker have been informed. Within one day a letter has been sent specifying the excluded period, the reasons for the exclusion, date of return, outline of the rights of carers to make representation to the governing body where appropriate and details of arrangements which will enable the excluded pupil to continue his/her education
- in the event of any exclusion, give details of the reasons for the exclusion to virtual school so that an appropriate response can be made

Designated teacher for looked after children and previously looked after children: ...

Mrs K Phillips.....

Designated governor for looked after children and previously looked after children:

Mr J Kelly.....