



**LANGSHOTT PRIMARY SCHOOL**

**LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN (LAC) POLICY**

Date of policy review	Spring 2016
Next review date	Spring 2017

## **A policy for the Educational Support of Looked After Children**

At Langshott, we support the inclusion and attainment of Looked After Children. These children are 'looked after' by the local authority through a care order or through voluntary accommodation. We are determined to help these pupils to do as well as they can academically and socially. We ensure that Looked After Children have equal access to all aspects of education and school life and are aware of the key reasons why they, as a group, significantly underachieve in education. There is a crucial relationship between educational achievement and well-being. Children learn and thrive when they are healthy, safeguarded from harm and engaged. Evidence shows that educational achievement is the most effective way to improve outcomes for vulnerable children and break cycles of deprivation, hence the importance of promoting the academic achievement of looked after children. At Langshott, we understand the powerful role that we can play in significantly improving their quality of life and educational experiences as well as safeguarding and promoting their welfare.

The terms 'Looked After Children' and 'Children in Care' are often used to define the same group of young people. In documents produced by Surrey's Virtual School the use of Children in Care (CiC) is the preferred term.

At Langshott, we aim to improve outcomes for all children and to narrow the gap between those who meet age expectations and those who do not. Therefore we will:

- Ensure that all staff are aware of the number of looked after children and their circumstances. The expectation is that this information will be confidential within the school.
- When reviewing our policies, ensure that they reflect the needs of looked after pupils.
- Ensure that they have access to all aspects of education creating an ethos of support and acceptance in school.
- Ensure that they have a designated teacher.
- Set up a personal education plan (PEP) with the social worker, foster carer, parent, where appropriate, and child
- Ensure that we have high expectations for the child and that they are realistic targets for their attainment.
- Develop good home school links with the foster carers.
- Keep the natural parents informed of their child's progress when appropriate as agreed with Children Services.
- Monitor their performance, exclusions and attendance.
- Train staff to support such pupils.
- Liaise with Children Services accordingly.
- Attend or contribute to looked after children reviews where the PEP will be reviewed/ updated
- Ensure that looked after children have someone to whom they can talk.
- Ensure that all staff are aware of the arrangements for the child's travelling arrangements to and from school.
- Prepare children when they change schools

### **The Designated Teacher for looked after children is responsible for**

- Keeping a list of the looked after pupils in the school, with contact telephone numbers and ensuring it is up-dated regularly
- Ensuring all information is stored confidentially and shared on a “need to know” basis
- Liaising with other agencies and individuals in relation to looked after pupils
- Attending relevant training on looked after pupils
- Ensuring that colleagues in school have relevant information/training on looked after pupils to enable them to positively promote educational issues.
- Acting as an advisor for other staff in school/governors on issues relevant to looked after pupils
- Ensuring that Reviews by Social Care colleagues for looked after pupils are seen as a priority and that the appropriate teacher from the school attends and/or a report is sent to the meeting
- Ensuring that all looked after pupils have a personal education plan and that is prepared within appropriate timescales
- Keeping general circulars, legislation and information on looked after children and young people up to date.
- Ensuring efficient transfer of educational information from the school to all appropriate other colleagues
- Ensuring that the liaison teacher in the school passes all information to the designated teacher in the following school.
- Ensuring that information is passed on to the new school when a looked after child changes school at any other time.
- Supporting children through transitions
- Reporting to the Governing body on the educational outcomes and circumstances of looked after children.

At Langshott our Designated Teacher for Looked After Children is The Headteacher.

### **The Class Teacher will:**

- Know which children are looked after and will be informed by the designated teacher on a need to know basis of any changes.
- Liaise with the foster carer/social worker as appropriate, for example, to alert carers to possible causes of concern
- Liaise with the designated teacher
- Have an appropriate input to looked after children reviews
- Monitor the appropriateness of teaching materials

### **Governors will:**

- Monitor the use of funding allocated to the school on behalf of looked after pupils and ensure it is used for the benefit of these specific children. The Pupil Premium provides additional funding for schools for each pupil in public care (currently, this amount is £1,900 per pupil per annum)
- Have a nominated governor to help ensure that looked after children have a positive experience at our school
- Ensure that the nominated governor reports back annually to the full governing body on the progress of any looked after pupils.

It is intended that this policy is read with reference to the core aims of our school, the Inclusion Policy, the Learning and Teaching Policy and where appropriate, the Special Needs Policy.

In addition, the Children's Act 2004 establishes and outlines the statutory responsibilities that must be undertaken to maximise opportunity and minimise risk for all children. These are set out under six key principles:



This policy will be reviewed in accordance with the school's monitoring cycle.