

St Anne's RC Primary and Nursery School Audenshaw Policy for Looked After Children

Rationale

Our Mission is

"To help every person to achieve his or her best in work and play. To celebrate whatever is good and to follow in the footsteps of Jesus by supporting and forgiving each other for the honour and glory of God."

We believe in the concept of lifelong learning and that both adults and children learn new things every day and that appropriate teaching and learning experiences help children to lead happy and rewarding lives whatever their home circumstances.

Introduction

There are approximately 68,500 children, most of them of school age, who are looked after by Local Authorities (LAs). Legislation over the past four decades has slowly improved the outlook for these children, but there remains a significant gap between their prospects and those of other children. Their academic performance is usually lower and they are over-represented in a range of vulnerable groups.

Exclusions are a major issue for looked-after children (LAC); nearly 1% of all LAC are permanently excluded from school as opposed to just above 0.1% of all children. Schools are advised that they should be especially sensitive to these children because they are by definition at risk of low attainment and exclusion. Schools should try every means practicable to keep LAC in school, seeking professional advice as appropriate.

Through our Teaching and Learning opportunities at St Anne's we aim to promote the:

- educational achievement
- personal achievement
- welfare

of any looked after child in our school.

Definition of "Looked After"

The statutory definitions

Under the Children Act 1989, as amended by the Children and Families Act 2014, a child is defined as 'looked after' if he/she is looked after by an LA or provided with accommodation for more than 24 hours by the LA. There are four main groups of LAC:

- Children who are accommodated under a voluntary agreement with their parents (section 20).
- Children who are the subjects of a care order (section 31) or interim care order (section 38).
- Children who are the subjects of emergency orders for their protection (sections 44 and 46).
- Children who are compulsorily accommodated – this can include children who are remanded to the LA or subject to a criminal justice supervision order with a residence requirement (section 21).

The term 'in care' applies only to children who are subject to a care order by the courts under section 31 of the Children Act 1989. Children who are cared for on a voluntary basis are said to be 'accommodated' by the LA under section 20 of the Act.

LAC may be looked after by:

- ✓ The LA where their school is situated.
- ✓ Another LA but living in the same LA as their school is situated.

Guidelines

Mrs Gaffney is the Named Teacher for Looked after children at St Anne's.

Mrs Burke is the Named Governor with responsibility for Looked After Children

As a school we will ensure:

- all staff are made aware of any looked after child within the school setting
- information is kept up to date
- all staff are aware of the difficulties and educational disadvantage faced by looked after children
- that positive systems are in place to assist looked after children to overcome these disadvantages
- children attend relevant before and after school provision to assist in enriching their curriculum and experiences
- intervention programmes are in place to address any underachievement
- the educational development of looked after children
- liaison between services as appropriate.

Working with Looked after Children

In order to ensure each looked after child at St Anne's receives an appropriate curriculum we will ensure:

- individual Education Plans and Care Plans will be set up as appropriate after consultation with the child.
- any child protection issues are addressed and are kept in order
- ongoing relevant multi-agency work
- appropriate training of staff and governors
- the Local Education Authority receives appropriate progress reports.
- the primary carer and the Local Education Authority will receive copies of all reports
- multi agency reviews will be held

Mrs Burke is the Named Governor and she will report to the Governing Body on the following:

- the number of Looked After Children
- their progress in comparison with those of children of a similar chronological age
- their attendance in comparison with those of children of a similar chronological age
- details of any fixed term or permanent exclusions

- that policies and practices within the school for looked after children ensure equal access to the curriculum, appropriate education plans, National tests and after school provision.

Admission Arrangements

Admission arrangements will be as stated in our Admissions Policy.

On admission to St Anne's RC

- records will be requested from the previous setting
- appropriate induction will take place
- a meeting will be held with the primary carer (and any relevant agencies) to ensure relevant information which, in turn will serve to inform Individual Education Plans, and curriculum
- a Home-School agreement will be drawn up with the primary carer
- children will be involved at an appropriate level as determined by their age and maturity.

Assessment, Monitoring and Review Procedures

Individual Education Plans will identify specific areas of concern and achievable targets.

Other areas to be considered will include:

- attendance
- behaviour
- homework
- extra curricular involvement
- progress and further development needs
- Special Needs (If appropriate).

This Policy was reviewed September 2017

Signed. *Helen Abela* Chair to The Curriculum Committee