

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School



Looked after children and previously looked after children Policy

Adopted by governors: January 2025

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People were also bringing babies to Jesus for him to place his hands on them. When the disciples saw this, they rebuked them. But Jesus called the children to him and said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it." — Luke 18:15-17

1. Who is a Looked after child?

- A child 'looked-after by a local authority' is one who is looked after within the meaning of Section 22 of the Children Act 1989

2. Who is a Previously Looked after child?

- 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. This 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.

3. Our Policy

1. In line with **Birmingham's Children's Services**, St Joseph's Catholic Primary School supports the council's commitment towards securing a first class education and promotes inclusion and equality for looked after and previously looked after children.

2. The school recognises that Looked after Children

- Nationally experience educational under-achievement
- Deserve the same life chances as any other child; to be healthy, stay safe, enjoy and achieve, make a positive contribution to society and achieve economic wellbeing.
- Need good corporate parenting in order to realise their potential and improve their life chance.

4. For LAC and PLAC pupils we will therefore;

- Designate a teacher; namely John Lynch to work to promote and sustain the educational achievement and welfare of LAC and PLAC in our school.
- Ensure that systems are in place to keep staff up to date and informed about LAC and PLAC children where and when appropriate.
- Ensure that LAC/PLAC, along with all children are listened to and have equal opportunity to pastoral support in school.
- Ensure that staff are up to date with current legislation and its implication for the school in respect of LAC/PLAC
- Ensure staff are aware of how being looked after may impact on the social, emotional and educational development of a young person.
- Report to the Governing body annually on the performance of LAC and PLAC pupils in school.

For Looked after children specifically, we will:

- Participate in discussion, decision making, the planning of a Personal Education Plan (PEP) and a review of LAC progress, ensuring that regular attendance is maintained and that the recommendations of the Children Act 2004 and the current guidance stipulated by the DfES are followed.
- Work in partnership with the allocated Social Worker to ensure that each Looked after Child is monitored and the PEP reviewed regularly.
- Ensure that PP (Pupil Premium) money is directed at providing LAC pupils with extra support in whichever area is most important to them to achieve.
- Monitor the progress of students who are Looked after in order that key problems, challenges and successes are used to inform school planning, development and interventions.

5. Key persons and agency

- Name of our designated teacher for Looked After Children and Post Looked After children:

Mr John Lynch– Assistant Principal

- Name of school Governor with special responsibility for Looked after Children:

Father Ryan Service – School Governor

This policy must read in conjunction with:

- **The Behaviour Policy**
- **Equality Policy**

Date: January 2025