



Looked After and Previously Looked After Policy

Written By	AFC Virtual School
Frequency of Review	4 years
Date reviewed and approved by Governing Body	Spring 2025
Date of next review	Spring 2029
Display on Website	ü
Purpose	The School is committed to promoting the education of looked after/previously looked after children.
Consultation	Governors ✓
	Parents ✓
	Pupils ✓
	Staff ✓
Links with other policies	Teaching and Learning Behaviour SEND Attendance

Introduction

At Burlington Junior School we are committed to promoting the education of looked after children and previously looked after children. We understand that vulnerable students are best supported with high quality teaching and whole school awareness of trauma informed practice.

Burlington Junior School has a Designated Teacher (Headteacher) who is responsible for meeting the needs of this group of pupils. The post holder is a qualified teacher and is empowered to have whole school influence. Our school governor responsible for looked after children is Julie Hickman.

Definition of Looked After:

Looked after children; children in care, children looked after and care experienced children all mean that the local authority is their corporate parent and they are in LA care to some extent. There are Care Orders where the local authority has full parental responsibility and Section 20s where parents share parental responsibility.

Children in care /Looked after children (LAC)/Children looked after (CLA): CLA and LAC have a foster carer, or can live with an approved relative or even, sometimes, at home with their parents. Looked after children can also live in residential homes and when they are older and become 'Care Leavers' - they can transition to independent living. Looked after children also includes children in informal kinship care arrangements.

An SGO is a young person who lives with adults who have been given a Special Guardianship Order. SGOs have many similarities to adopted children but they are still paid for by the local authority. Both SGOs and adopted children are known as Previously Looked after children.

The Role of the Designated Teacher

- To act as an advocate for Children Looked After and Children Previously Looked After
- To champion an attachment aware school, promoting high quality, inclusive teaching.
- To ensure Burlington Junior School comply with the Admissions Code to ensure priority for CLA and previously CLA
- To ensure that the educational achievement of each looked after child is monitored, tracked, promoted and where relevant accelerated
- To ensure Burlington Junior School follow DfE Guidance on Exclusions for vulnerable children and understand the importance of school stability for this group.
- To have a good working knowledge of the SEND code of practice
- To track and monitor attendance of looked after children
- To ensure all staff are aware of the barriers for looked after children and understand the need for systems and strategies to support them e.g. pre and over learning, emotion coaching, safe place to be etc
- To liaise with other relevant professions in the network around the child. For example; social worker, foster carer, independent reviewing officer.
- To chair PEP meetings for all Looked After Children each term having gathered progress updates from across the staff.
- To advise on the most effective use of the Pupil Premium+ in liaison with relevant professionals in the PEP meeting e.g. reference to Education Endowment Foundation; Sutton Trust.

- To set learning based targets for pupils at PEP meetings and ensure these are implemented to a high standard and in time frame
- To ensure that they are aware of children who are previously looked after, including those who have a Special Guardianship Order, to improve awareness of the vulnerability and needs of previously looked-after children. This should include promoting good practice, identifying and meeting their needs, and guidance on effective use of the PPG.
- To report to the Governing body termly (via the Head teacher report) on the outcomes of Looked After Children.
- To attend Designated Teacher forum and training and disseminate this information to the wider school community and maintain a good knowledge of research recommendations for this group.

Roles and Responsibilities of all staff

- To ensure that looked after and previously looked after children are supported sensitively and confidentiality is maintained
- To be familiar with this policy and respond appropriately to requests for information to support the completion of PEPs and other documentation needed as part of review meetings
- To have high aspirations for the educational and personal achievement of looked after and previously looked after children with an aim to close the attainment gap between this group and their peers
- To attend Designated Teacher whole school training and apply techniques to include looked after and previously looked after children within the lessons and school community.

Roles and Responsibilities of the Governing Body

- To ensure the Governing Body has a named governor responsible for looked after children
- To be aware of how many Looked After Children are on roll at our school.
- To ensure that there is a Designated Teacher for Looked After Children (HT).
- To support the Headteacher, Designated Teacher and other staff to ensure the needs of this group are met and that the school is an Attachment Aware, inclusive learning environment.
- Attend relevant training.
- To review the effective implementation of this policy annually with the LAC Governor who reports back to the full Governing Body.

Support for children and families

- Burlington Junior's has the Attachment & Trauma schools award
- MHST team
- Pastoral support –School Family Liaison officer
- Attachment aware behaviour policy where restorative justice, emotional coaching and staff who are trained in emotion coaching are developed in favour of punitive approaches.
- Nurture room
- Drama therapy
- Priority for extra-curricular clubs
- EP time if parents need it.
- ELSA sessions
- Access to school clubs

- Access to lunchtime or booster groups