

BLACKFRIARS ACADEMY

LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN POLICY

Developed:

Revised: July 2015

Review Date: Jan 2020



a) **The Objective**

To promote the educational achievement and welfare of Looked After Children.

b) **The Name of the Designated Teacher for Looked After Children**

Blackfriars : Carmel Martin

c) **The Role of the Designated Teacher for Looked After Children**

Within the academy:

- to ensure that all staff, both teaching and non-teaching, are aware of the difficulties and educational disadvantage faced by Looked After Children and understand the need for positive systems of support to overcome them
- to inform members of staff of the general educational needs of Looked After Children and to promote the involvement of these children in extra-curricular activities, school councils etc
- to act as an advocate for Looked After Children
- to develop and monitor systems for liaising with carers, Social Workers and the Virtual School for Looked After Children
- to hold a supervisory brief for all Looked After Children e.g. to ensure all relevant education and care information is available to school staff and carer(s), and that this information is kept up to date
- to monitor the educational progress of all Looked After Children in order to inform the development and provision/intervention planning of the academy, thereby ensuring that the attainment 'gap' is closing
- to intervene if there is evidence of individual underachievement, absence from school or internal truancy
- to ensure the involvement of LA Careers Advisers with year 11, 12,13 and 14 Looked After Children
- to report annually to the Academy Council of the academies on Looked after Children's progress

Work with Individual Looked After Children:

- to enable the student to make a contribution to the educational aspects of their Care Plan
- helping to ensure that each student has a Personal Education Plan - PEP (initiated by the student's Social Worker) to ensure that a home-school agreement is drawn up with the primary carer and signed by the Social Worker

Liaison:

- to liaise with the member of staff responsible for monitoring children on the Child Protection Register
- to help co-ordinate education and PEP reviews so that they can inform the student's Care Plan
- to attend, when appropriate, or arrange for someone else to attend, Looked After Children Care Plan meetings
- to be the named contact for colleagues in Families First (including the Virtual School)
- to forward information on Staffordshire Looked After Children's current and target NC levels to the Virtual School (see PEP document)
- to ensure the speedy transfer of information between agencies and individuals

Training:

- to develop knowledge of legislation and good practice by attending training events organised by the Virtual School and cascade to school staff as appropriate

d) The name of a Academy Councillor with special responsibility for Looked After Children:

Mrs Carmel Martin

e) The role of that Academy Councillor

The named Academy Councillor will ensure reporting to the Academy Council on a termly basis:

- a comparison of NC levels/results as a discrete group
- the attendance of students as a discrete group
- the level of fixed term/permanent exclusions
- student destinations

The named Academy Councillor will ensure a self-audit of the academies provision for Looked After Children is undertaken

The named Academy Councillor should be satisfied that the academy's policies and procedure ensure that Looked After Children have equal access to:

- the full curriculum and extra-curricular activities
- public examinations
- careers information, advice and guidance
- additional educational support
- work experience

f) Responsibility for Looked After Children in School

It is important that all teaching staff that are in contact with the child or young person are aware that he/she is being Looked After by the Local Authority. The responsibility for the transfer of this information should be that of the Principal and/or the Designated Teacher for Looked After Children.

It is appropriate for a Learning Support/Teaching Assistant to have knowledge that the young person is Looked After when directly involved in the teaching of the young person.

In the absence of the usual class teacher, some information regarding the child's circumstances should be shared with the teacher covering the class. The extent of this sharing should be determined by the Principal or the Designated Teacher for Looked After children.

g) Admission Arrangements

On admission, records (including the PEP) will be requested from the student's previous school and a meeting will be held with carer/parent/Social Worker. A date will be agreed for a PEP meeting, taking reference to statutory timescales. An appropriate induction to the academy will take place.

h) Involving the Young Person

It is important that a young person is aware that information is being recorded regarding their personal circumstances. How this is shared with them clearly depends on their age and understanding. The explanation should emphasise that the academy, the Social Worker and their carer(s) are working together to promote their education.

i) Communication with Other Agencies

Academies should ensure that a copy of all reports (e.g. end of year reports) should be forwarded to the young person's Social Worker in addition to the Foster Carer or Residential Social Worker.

Schools, Families First, including the Virtual School and education services should endeavour to co-ordinate their review meetings e.g. to have an Annual Review of a Statement combined with a Statutory Care Review.

Schools, Families First, including the Virtual School and education services will need to exchange information between formal reviews if there are significant changes in the young person's circumstances, e.g. if academy is considering an exclusion, there is a change of care placement or there are significant attendance issues.

j) Assessment, Monitoring and Review Procedures

Each Looked After Child will have a Care Plan that will include a PEP which the Social Worker takes a lead in developing. The academy will play an active role in contributing to those areas of the PEP that are education related e.g.

- SMART target setting
- identification of current and target levels of achievement
- how additional resources are being utilised to meet educational targets (e.g. the Student Premium, Personal Education Allowance)
- attendance
- involvement in Extra Curricular Activities
- Special Educational Needs
- long term plans and aspirations

The PEP will be updated at least every six months, as part of the Statutory Reviewing process carried out by Families First.

The named Academy Councillor will ensure annually reporting to the Academy Council on the progress of all Looked After Children against the key indicators outlined above.

Policy Written : March 2016

Ratified by Academy Council : March 2016

Review date : January 2020