



Springwood Primary School

**Education of Looked After Children (LAC) and
Previously Looked After Children (PLAC)**

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INTRODUCTION

The policy is informed by the following Department for Education (DfE) document:

- The Designated Teacher for Looked After and Previously Looked After Children. Statutory guidance on their roles and responsibilities https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/683561/The_designated_teacher_for_looked-after_and_previously_looked-after_children.pdf (DfE February 2018)

The governing body of Springwood Primary School is committed to providing high quality education for all its pupils, based on equality of opportunity, access and outcomes. The governing body recognises the need to champion performance, for Looked After Children (LAC) and Previously Looked After Children (PLAC) and is committed to improving outcomes for them.

The governing body is committed to ensuring that LAC and PLAC are supported as fully as possible and will ensure that the following are in place, and are working effectively:

1. A Designated Governor for LAC and PLAC
2. A Designated Teacher for LAC and PLAC
3. Personal Education Plans (PEPs) for all LAC
4. The Designated Teacher, as a minimum, will have two days a year for training opportunities specific to factors that impact on the attainment of LAC and PLAC.
5. All staff in school will have a clear understanding of the issues that affect LAC and PLAC; their learning needs; how to support them in school and issues relating to confidentiality.
6. Policies, procedures and strategies to promote the achievement and well-being of this vulnerable group.

THE ROLE OF THE DESIGNATED TEACHERS FOR LOOKED AFTER AND PREVIOUSLY LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN

1. The Designated Teachers are the central point of initial contact within Springwood Primary School. They ensure that the school plays its role to the full in making sure arrangements are joined up and minimise any disruption to a child's learning.
2. The Designated Teachers have a leadership role in promoting the educational achievement of every LAC and PLAC on the school's roll. This involves working with the Virtual School Team to promote the education of LAC and PLAC and promoting a whole school culture where the personalised learning needs of these children matter and their personal, emotional and academic needs are prioritised.
3. The Designated Teachers take lead responsibility for ensuring school staff understand the things which can affect how LAC and PLAC learn and achieve and how the whole school supports the educational achievement of these pupils.

4. The Designated Teachers promote the educational achievement of LAC and PLAC by contributing to the development and review of whole school policies.
5. The Designated Teachers promote a culture in which LAC and PLAC:
 - are able to discuss their progress and be involved in setting their own targets appropriate to their level of understanding, have their views taken seriously, and are supported to take responsibility for their own learning;
 - are prioritised in any selection of pupils who would benefit from specific strategies;
 - are encouraged to participate in school activities and in decision making within the school and the care system;
 - believe they can succeed and aspire to reach their individual potential.
6. The Designated Teachers are a source of advice for teachers about: differentiated teaching strategies appropriate for individual pupils who are LAC or PLAC; and the use of Assessment for Learning (AfL) approaches to improve the short and medium term progress of LAC and PLAC as appropriate, and help them and their teachers understand where they are in their learning (including any knowledge gaps), where they need to go, and how to get there.
7. The Designated Teachers work directly with LAC and PLAC and their carers, parents or guardians to: promote good home-school links; support progress by paying particular attention to effective communication; ensure they understand the potential value of specific strategies and are equipped to engage with them at home where appropriate; ensure they are aware of how the school teaches key skills for their child; and encourages high aspirations and working with the child to plan for their future success and fulfilment.
8. The Designated Teachers have lead responsibility for the development and implementation of PEPs for LAC within school in partnership with others as necessary;
9. The Designated Teachers are responsible for ensuring that the PEPs are completed within statutory timescales and a copy is returned to the Virtual School Team as outlined in the PEP guidance.
10. The Designated Teachers should ensure that the school spends the allocated Pupil Premium Plus Grant for the benefit of the LAC and PLAC cohort and can account for the impact of this grant on the outcomes of the cohort.
11. The Designated Teachers also have the role of Designated Safeguarding Lead and this ensures that any safeguarding concerns regarding LAC and PLAC are quickly and effectively responded to.
12. The Designated Teachers are aware that the Virtual School Team can provide information and advice to parents and Designated Teachers on meeting the needs of PLAC. The Designated Teachers will fully involve parents and guardians in decisions affecting their child's education, and must gain authorisation from parents to discuss their child with the Virtual School Team for advice on meeting their individual needs.

THE ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF ALL STAFF

All staff in this school will:

1. have high expectations of LAC and PLAC's learning and set targets to accelerate educational progress;
2. be aware of the emotional, psychological and social effects of loss and separation (attachment awareness) from birth families and that some children may find it difficult to build relationships of trust with adults because of their experiences, and how this might affect the child's behaviour;
3. understand how important it is to see LAC and PLAC as individuals rather than as a homogeneous group, not publicly treat them differently from their peers, and show sensitivity about who else knows about their looked after or previously looked after status;
4. appreciate the central importance of the PEP in helping to create a shared understanding between teachers, carers, social workers and, where appropriate, the child's own understanding of how they are being supported;
5. have the level of understanding they need of the role of social workers, Virtual School Heads and carers, and how the function of the PEP fits into the wider care planning duties of the authority which looks after the child;
6. for PLAC, understand the importance of involving the child's parents or guardians in decisions affecting their child's education, and be a contact for parents or guardians who want advice or have concerns about their child's progress at school.

THE ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITY OF THE GOVERNING BODY

The governing body of this school will:

1. ensure all governors are fully aware of the legal requirements and guidance for LAC and PLAC;
2. ensure that there is a named Designated Teacher for LAC and PLAC;
3. ensure that the school has a record of how they plan to spend the Pupil Premium Plus Grant for LAC and PLAC, including plans for any pooling of the funding;
4. through the Designated Teachers, hold the school to account on how it supports its LAC and PLAC (including how the Pupil Premium Plus is used) and their level of progress;
5. be aware of whether the school has LAC and PLAC and how many (no names);
6. liaise with the Head Teacher to ensure that the Designated Teachers are enabled to carry out their responsibilities in relation to LAC and PLAC;
7. ensure the Designated Teachers are able to access training needed to fulfil their role. Most Virtual School Heads agree that, as minimum, Designated Teachers should have two days a year for training opportunities specific to factors that impact on the attainment of LAC and PLAC;
8. support the Head Teacher, Designated Teachers and other staff in ensuring the needs of LAC and PLAC are met;
9. review the effective implementation of this policy, preferably annually and at least every three years.

Names of Designated Teachers: Judith Pitt and Aidan Yates (Swinton)
Matthew Lawrenson (Craig Hall)

Name of Designated Governor: Craig McCabe