



**POLICY FOR THE INCLUSION AND SUPPORT OF PUPILS WHO
ARE LOOKED AFTER IN LOCAL AUTHORITY CARE**

Our Academy recognises that:

- Children who are looked after in local authority care have the same rights as all children but may have additional needs due to attachment issues, early neglect, separation and loss, trauma and many placement moves. These barriers to learning can affect their educational outcomes and their personal, social and emotional development.
- There are commonly understood reasons (Social Exclusion Unit Report 2003) why children who are looked after in local authority care often fail to make expected progress at school:
 - Placement instability
 - Unsatisfactory educational experiences of many carers
 - Too much time out of school
 - Insufficient help if they fall behind
 - Unmet needs – emotional, mental, physical
- There is a statutory requirement for all schools to have a designated teacher for looked after children. The current designated member of staff at our school is the SENCO. The responsibilities of the designated person includes:
 - Monitoring the progress of children who are “looked after” to ensure that they have the best life chances possible and access to the full range of opportunities in school.
 - Ensuring that children who are “looked after” have access to the appropriate network of support.
 - Checking that the statutory Personal Education Plan (PEP) has been arranged and that it is regularly reviewed, at least every six months.
 - Ensuring that information concerning the education of children who are “looked after” is transferred between agencies and individuals.
 - Preparing a report on the child’s educational progress to contribute towards the statutory review. (These are usually held at six monthly intervals or more frequently if there is a concern).
 - Discussing feedback from the statutory review (chaired by the Independent Reviewing Officer) with social workers and, where necessary, the carers and a member of the Virtual School Team.
 - Liaising with the child’s social worker to ensure that there is effective communication at all times.
 - Celebrating the child’s successes and acknowledge the progress they are making.

Our school will work closely with the County’s The Virtual School (VS) for children, which promotes the education needs of Looked After Children and monitors admissions, PEP completion, attendance & exclusions.