



Kingsbury Green
Primary School

Looked After
Children Policy

September 2017

INTRODUCTION

The governing board of Kingsbury Green Primary School is committed to providing quality education for all its pupils, based on equality of opportunity, access and outcomes. This governing board recognises that, nationally, there is considerable educational underachievement of children in residential and foster care, when compared with their peers.

'Looked After' is a term that refers to children for whom the Local Authority is sharing parental responsibility. This can happen either with parental agreement or when a Court makes a Care Order. The child may be living with foster carers, in a residential unit, with family members or sometimes with their parents. These children are therefore subject to corporate parenting.

This policy includes requirements set out in "Statutory guidance on the duty on local authorities to promote the educational achievement of children" (under section 52 of the Children Act 2004) and associated guidance on the education of Looked After Children.

Children who are "looked after" may be "Accommodated", "In Care" or "remanded/ detained" as follows:

Accommodated (Section 20)

This is a voluntary arrangement, because parents are ill, missing, unable to cope, or as part of a child protection plan negotiated with the family. The parents retain parental responsibility.

In Care

A child is in care only if a court has granted a Care Order which it will issue if it believes a child to be suffering or likely to suffer significant harm. A care order generally gives parental responsibility to the local authority, or shares this with the parents.

Remanded/Detained

A child can be remanded or detained as in the following:

- an emergency protection order
- removed by police using their powers of protection
- remanded by a court following criminal charges
- a court directing a social services department to accommodate a child (already on a supervision order for criminal behaviour) for up to six months.

Governor responsible: Una McCall

Designated Lead for CLA: Chris Bonner

Kingsbury Green Primary School recognises that all pupils are entitled to a balanced, broad-based curriculum and aims to promote the educational achievement and welfare of pupils in public care. The school and the governing board endorses Brent LA policy and welcomes CLA who may be looked after by our local authority or those who may be in the care of another authority but living in Brent.

Kingsbury Green Primary School's approach to encouraging and supporting the educational achievement of Looked After Children is based on the following principles:

- Ensuring an appropriately trained Designated Teacher is appointed, who will be responsible for all Looked After children.
- All Looked After Children will have a Personal Education Plan (PEP) drawn up between the school, the child, and the child's social worker, which will identify the child's individual needs and the support they require
- Having high expectations for the child and ensuring equal access to a balanced and broadly based education.
- Recording, monitoring, and improving the academic achievement of the child in addition to their health and wellbeing.
- Achieving stability and continuity
- Prioritising reduction in exclusions and promoting attendance.
- Promoting inclusion through challenging and changing attitudes.
- Promoting good communication between all those involved in the child's life and listening to the child.

- Maintaining and respecting the child's confidentiality wherever possible.
- Ensuring staff awareness of, and sensitivity to, the difficulties and educational disadvantages of Looked After Children.
- Ensuring all staff have a clear understanding of confidentiality and issues that affect looked after children.
- Ensuring there are effective strategies to support the education of this vulnerable group

KGPS is aware that Looked After Children may (or may not) have some or all the following issues:

- low self esteem
- poor education standards due to time out of school
- delayed social/emotional/ cognitive development
- be bullied or bully others
- be prone to mental health issues
- be isolated with few friends
- have behaviour issues
- poor attachments to others
- have a need to be very private
- exhibit hyper-aware behaviour

This makes them an extremely vulnerable group in terms of education and future life-chances. The governing board of Kingsbury Green Primary School, is committed to ensuring that the school's work ensures these children are supported as fully as possible.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE GOVERNING BOARD

The governing board of this school will:

- ensure governors are fully aware of the legal requirements and Guidance for Looked After Children
- be aware of whether the school has Looked After Children and how many (no names)
- ensure that there is a named Designated Teacher for Looked After Children
- liaise with the Head Teacher to ensure that the Designated Teacher is enabled to carry out her/his responsibilities in relation to Looked After Children
- support the Head Teacher, Designated Teacher and other staff in ensuring the needs of Looked After Children are met
- nominate a governor who links with the Designated Teacher, receives regular progress reports and provides feedback to the governing body (These reports should not include any names of individual children for child protection and confidentiality reasons)
- review the effective implementation of this policy, preferably annually and at least every three years

ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE DESIGNATED TEACHER

The Designated Teacher should:

- be an advocate for Looked After Children;
- when new to the school, ensure a smooth and welcome induction for the child and carer, and note any specific requirements, including care status;
- ensure that a Personal Education Plan(PEP) is completed, as soon as possible. This should be prepared with the child and the carer, in liaison with the social worker and other relevant support workers/agencies, and be linked to the Care Plan meetings, within 28 days, 3 months and 6 months and, at least, every 6 months;
- keep PEPs and other records up to date, particularly in time to inform review meetings;
- ensure that each child in public care (if they wish) has an identified member of staff that they can talk to (this should be based on the child's request, and may not necessarily be the Designated Teacher);
- co-ordinate support for the child in the school and liaise with other professionals and carers as necessary;
- ensure staff receive relevant information and training and act as an advisor to staff and governors;
- ensure confidentiality for individual children and only share personal information on a need to know basis;
- provide written information to assist planning/review meetings and ensure attendance as far as possible;
- ensure that the child and carer(s) receive early notification of meetings, parents evenings and other events and that communication remains regular and positive.
- encourage Looked After Children to participate in extra-curricular activities and out of hours learning, where feasible;
- ensure speedy transfer of information between individuals and other relevant agencies and to a new school if and when the child transfers;
- seek urgent meetings with relevant parties where the child is experiencing difficulties and/or is in danger of being excluded.
- ensure that any returns on looked after children are completed – as requested by the LA

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF ALL STAFF

- ensure that any child in public care is supported sensitively and that confidentiality is maintained;
- be familiar with the pupil and respond appropriately to requests for information to support the completion of PEPs and other documentation needed as part of review meetings;
- respond positively to a child in public care's request to be the named person that they can talk to when they feel it is necessary;
- contribute to the Designated Teacher's requests for information on educational attainment and needs, as appropriate;
- as with all children, ensure that no child in public care is stigmatised in any way;
- provide a supportive climate to enable a child in public care to achieve stability within the school setting;
- as with all children, have high aspirations for the educational and personal achievement of Looked After Children
- positively promote the self-esteem of Looked After Children

CONFIDENTIALITY

- information on Looked After Children will be shared with school staff on a "need to know basis"
- the Designated Teacher will discuss what information is shared with which school staff at the PEP meeting.
- Once this has been agreed with the social worker, carer, young person, and other parties, complete confidentiality is to be maintained.

TRAINING

The Head Teacher or the Designated Teacher will be responsible for ensuring all appropriate / necessary staff are briefed on the regulations and practice outlined in this policy.

PERSONAL EDUCATION PLAN (PEP) COMPLETION

- Social worker informs school of a child becoming looked after (or a looked after children entering the school)
- Date is set for the completion of a Personal Education Plan (PEP).
- A copy of the form is sent to the school to enable completion of educational data PEP meeting takes place within 20 days, involving the social worker designated teacher (or other appropriate staff), carer and young person if appropriate.
- A date is set for the next pep meeting Personal Education Plan is taken to the child's statutory review and discussed within the wider context of the child's life.
- PEP uploaded onto Welfare Call (or alternative) website

LAC REVIEWS

- LAC reviews are held on a 6 monthly basis, and chaired by an Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO)
- It is not obligatory for a school representative to attend but KGPS views attendance as good practice to support the family and understand the whole picture of the child

For more information on LAC please see:

For more information please see: ***The role and responsibilities of the designated teacher for looked after children – Statutory guidance for school governing bodies.***

<http://publications.teachernet.gov.uk/eOrderingDownload/01046-2009BKT-EN.PDF>

Improving the Educational Attainment of Children in Care (Looked after Children)

<http://publications.everychildmatters.gov.uk/eOrderingDownload/DCSF-00523-2009.pdf>

Improving the attainment of looked after children in primary schools – Guidance for Schools

<http://publications.teachernet.gov.uk/eOrderingDownload/01047-2009.pdf>

Improving the attainment of looked after young people in secondary schools – Guidance for Schools

<http://publications.teachernet.gov.uk/eOrderingDownload/01048-2009.pdf>