



Steyning C of E Primary School

Designated Teacher for Looked After and Previously Looked After Children Policy

"Do Everything in Love; we do our best in all we do and all we say with God's help."

Approved by:	[Mary Smith]	Last reviewed on:	[16 January 2025]
Lead Governors:	[Mary Smith and Ellie Yurtsever]	Next review due by:	[January 2026] June 25

This policy outlines our school commitment to the Education of Looked After and Previously Looked After Children.

Our Vision

We want Steyning C of E Primary School to become synonymous with educational excellence by building an Inclusive Christian community based on 'Love' where everyone feels valued, safe and supported. Everyone will be empowered to change their own lives and the lives of those around them. To be able to stand up and become responsible members of the community, making a difference. We will all aim to live and learn through our four key pillars;

- A love of learning,
- A love for oneself
- A love for each other
- A love for the world around us

Together, we will continually strive to remove the barriers to success, fear of failure and widen horizons for all. We will provide a culture of mutual respect and acceptance with children moving onto their next venture with the skills and values to set them on the path to achieve their dreams. We will build a collection of amazing memories where learning is fun, and education is valued. Our school will take pride in leading the children in Steyning C of E Primary School on their journey - both educationally and for life; enabling them to flourish and shape our community for the better. In our school we base all we do on the Vision Phrase "Do Everything In Love" (1 Corinthians 16: 14).

Definitions:

"Do Everything in Love; we do our best in all we do and all we say with God's help."

In West Sussex 'looked-after children' (LAC) are also referred to as 'children we care for' (CWCF).

In this policy we refer to 'looked-after children' (LAC).

Looked-after children' are children who are subject to a care order (under Section 31 of the Children Act 1989?

This policy refers to previously looked-after children (PLAC).

Previously looked-after children are children who were subject to a care order but ceased to be so because they were adopted, became subject to a special guardianship order, residence order or child arrangement order.

1. The governing body /trust board

The governors will carry out their role in line with statutory guidance.

The designated governor in Steyning CE Primary school is Mary Smith

The governing body/trust board, head teacher and school leadership team will support the education of looked after and previously looked after children by ensuring that the designated teacher has:

- Appropriate seniority and professional experience to provide leadership, training, information, challenge and advice to others
- Training opportunities, including time away from timetable commitments, to acquire and keep up-to-date the necessary skills, knowledge and understanding, including a good knowledge of SEN
- Appropriate monitoring arrangements to ensure that the school/education setting is providing appropriate support for looked-after and previously looked-after children

They will also ensure that school policies consider the needs of looked-after and previously looked-after children. This consideration will include additional arrangements for looked-after and previously looked-after children when considering;

- Admission
- Attendance and Exclusion
- Behaviour management
- Mental health needs
- Specific safeguarding challenges
- Special educational needs and disabilities (SEND)
- Gifted and talented students
- Teaching and learning needs
- Educational visits and extended school activities

The Governing body/trust board will hold the school to account on how it supports its looked-after and previously looked-after children, including;

- how the Pupil Premium Plus (PP+) is used

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- level of progress

2. The designated teacher

The designated teacher will carry out their role in line with statutory guidance.

The designated teacher is Nicky Parkin Assistant Head for Inclusion (SENCO)

The designated teacher (DT) is the central point of initial contact within the school. They will join up resources and support to minimise any disruption to a child's learning.

- The DT will work with VSHs (Virtual School Head) to promote the education of looked-after and previously looked-after children by promoting a whole school culture where the personalised learning needs of every looked-after and previously looked-after child matters and their personal, emotional and academic needs are prioritised.

They will:

- take lead responsibility for ensuring school staff understand how the whole school supports the educational achievement of these pupils.

Our school will make sure that all staff:

- have high expectations of children's learning and set targets to accelerate educational progress;
- are aware of the emotional, psychological and social effects of loss and separation (attachment awareness)
- understand how important it is to see children as individuals
- appreciate the central importance of the looked-after child's PEP and understand how it fits into the wider care planning for the child
- for previously looked-after children, 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 designated teacher will have a direct and day-to-day role in promoting the educational achievement of looked-after and previously looked-after children.

They will

- Work directly with looked-after and previously looked-after children and their carers, parents or guardians
- Contribute to the development and review of whole school policies and procedures
- Provide support and advice to teachers on differentiated teaching strategies and the use of assessment for learning

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- Ensure the pupil premium plus is used effectively within school to have the greatest positive impact on children’s learning. This includes; Ensuring parents and guardians of previously looked-after children are reminded that they need to inform the school if their child is eligible to attract PP+
- Ensure looked after and previously looked after children are prioritised for support; listened to; encouraged to participate; and believe they can achieve through an ethos of aspiration.

The designated teacher will chair Personal Education Plan (PEP) meetings to effectively plan to utilise school resources and ensure each child has access to the support they need to achieve.

- These meetings will take place 3 times per academic year to review support and deploy effective resources.
- Documentation will be co-produced with family and social care and shared with appropriate professionals as part of the child’s care plan.

The designated teacher will work closely with professional agencies including the foster carer; allocated social worker; virtual school head; learning and behaviour support agencies; EPS; SENDs, CAMHs, local police/youth offending service; community nurses and any other professional agency involved in supporting the child and family.

3. Transfer out of care

- When children cease to be looked-after the designated teacher will maintain links with VSH’s for the purposes of promoting the educational achievement of this group of previously looked-after children to ensure continuity.
- The Designated teacher will ensure that family members and carers are aware that they must pass on information about previous care status to any education settings. This information cannot be passed from school to school as it will be protected information under GDPR.

4. Voice of the child

- We will listen to the voice of looked-after and previously looked-after children as a vital part of successfully understanding and meeting their needs.

5. Pupil Premium Plus (PP+)

Looked-after children and children adopted from care, on a special guardianship or child arrangements order are eligible for PP+ funding. Additional funding is provided to help improve the attainment of looked-after and previously looked-after children and close the attainment gap between this group and their peers.

- All pupil premium spending will take account of the specific needs of eligible pupils.
- PP+ reflects the significant additional barriers faced by looked-after and previously looked-after children.
- PP+ is allocated according to need rather than a personal budget.

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- Our school will use pupil premium to address need in social, academic and mental health needs. This will be in agreement with the VSH from the child's home authority.

6. Special Educational Needs (SEN)

- Looked-after children and previously looked-after children are significantly more likely to have SEN than their peers. Of those with SEN, a significant proportion will have Education, Health and Care Plans (EHC plans).

The designated teacher will ensure that:

- They work closely with the Headteacher and local authority support team where applicable and follow the DfE Code of Practice
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/398815/SEND_Code_of_Practice_January_2015.pdf
- Children's PEPs work in harmony with their EHC plan.

Meeting Mental Health needs

- Looked-after children and previously looked-after children are more likely to experience the challenge of social, emotional and mental health issues than their peers.
- The designated teacher has an important role in ensuring they and other school staff can identify signs of potential issues and understand where the school can draw on specialist services
- Our school will utilise the CAMHS education link to support understanding mental health needs for looked-after and previously looked-after children.
- This will enable us to improve a whole school understanding of attachment and trauma and the impact on learning and behaviour for vulnerable children.
- Our school will utilise 'Caterpillars' our Children's Mentors to support the social and emotional wellbeing of looked-after and previously looked-after children when this support is needed.

We also recognise the impact on staff when working with traumatised children. We will ensure all staff feel supported to address their own needs as well as those of the vulnerable children they are caring for.

8. Working with local authorities

The DT will meet with social workers and other local authority personnel through:

- Termly PEP meetings
- Termly CWCF meetings
- Other communication with authorities, both formally and informally

9. Working with carers and parents

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The designated teacher will liaise regularly with the carers and parents of looked-after and previously looked –after children through:

- Termly PEP meetings
- Termly CWCF meetings
- Carer meetings
- SEND meetings
- Informal communication (by telephone and email) with carers

10. Exclusions

- The past experiences of looked-after and previously looked-after children can impact on their behaviour
- Where a looked-after child is at risk of either fixed term or permanent exclusion, the designated teacher will contact the relevant authority's VSH as soon as possible so they can help the school decide how to support the child to improve their behaviour and avoid exclusion becoming necessary.