Norwood Green Junior School

Looked After Children (LAC) Policy

Ratified by Governing Body: June 2024
Date of Next Review: March 2027

Norwood Green Junior School believes we have a special duty to safeguard and promote the education of looked after children (LAC).

Children in Care (or looked after children as they are commonly referred to) are those children who are subject to a court order and the local authority shares parental responsibility with the natural parent(s), or others who hold parental responsibility; and children who are looked after by the local authority under a voluntary agreement with the parent(s).

Aims:

- To provide a safe and secure environment, where education is valued and there is a belief in the abilities and potential of all children.
- To support our looked after children and give them access to every opportunity to achieve to their potential and enjoy learning.

In pursuit of this policy we will:

- Nominate the Pastoral Leader as the Designated Teacher for looked after children who will act as their advocate and co-ordinate support for them.
- Nominate a School Governor to ensure that the needs of looked after children in the school are considered at a school management level and to support the Designated Teacher.
- The nominated School Governor will also support the Designated Teacher in carrying out their role by making time available and ensuring that they attend training on looked after children.

The Designated Teacher will:

- Maintain an up to date record of all looked after children who are on the school roll. This will include:

  - Status i.e. care order or accommodated.
  - Type of Placement i.e. foster, respite, residential.
  - Name of Social Worker, area office, telephone number.
  - Daily contact and numbers e.g. name of parent or carer or key worker in children's home
  - SEN information
  - Child Protection information when appropriate.
  - Baseline information and all test results.
  - Attendance figures
  - Exclusions

- Ensure that there is a Personal Education Plan for each child/young person to include appropriate targets and above information. This must be compatible with the child's/young person's Care Plan and where applicable include any other school plan, e.g. Education, Health and Care Plan, and associated plans, Transition Plan, Pastoral Support Programme.

- Ensure that relevant information sharing documents are in place for each child/young person when required.
- Attend Children's Services Reviews on each child and always prepare a written report which promotes the continuity and stability of their education.
- Liaise with the Virtual College on a regular basis with regard to the performance, attendance and attainment of looked after children.
- Ensure that when the child transfers school all relevant information is forwarded to the receiving school as a matter of priority.
- Ensure that systems are in place to identify and prioritise when looked after children are underachieving and have early interventions to improve this in line with existing school policy.
- Ensure that systems are in place to keep staff up to date and informed about looked after children where and when appropriate.
- Ensure that looked after children, along with all children are listened to and have equal opportunity to pastoral support in school.
- Ensure that they keep the school up to date with current legislation and its implication for the school in respect of looked after children.
- Report to the Governing Body termly on the performance of the looked after children who are on the roll of the school.

<u>The Governing Body will:</u>
Ensure the policy is consistently applied.

<u>All governors and staff will:</u>
Support the local authority in its statutory duty to promote the educational achievement of looked after children.

<u>Linked policies / guidance:</u>
This policy has been formulated using the following guidance and linked policies

- Norwood Green Junior School's Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy
- 'Promoting the Education of Looked After Children: Statutory Guidance for local authorities' (DfE July 2014.)