



## GUIDANCE ON THE EDUCATION OF LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN

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## INTRODUCTION

The Board of Trustees of The Learning Trust, in partnership with Cheshire West and Chester County Council, is committed to providing quality education for all its pupils, based on equality of opportunity, access and outcomes.

It recognises its duty to implement the principles and practice, as outlined in the Children Act 1989, to promote the educational achievement of Looked After Children to ensure that they are able to “achieve and reach their full potential”.

This guidance is based on the Department of Education’s guidelines on [the designated teacher for looked after children](#) and links to the following school policies:

- Admissions Policy
- Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy
- Suspensions and Exclusion Policy

A child who has been in the care of their local authority for more than 24 hours is known as a looked after child. Looked after children are also often referred to as children in care, a term which many children and young people prefer. For clarity, the DfE use the term Looked After Children (LAC) but the Virtual School use the term Children in Care (CiC).

## THE LEARNING TRUST BOARD WILL:-

- with each school, designate a member of staff (the designated teacher) as having the responsibility to promote the educational achievement of looked-after children, including those aged between 16 and 18 who are registered pupils at the Trust’s schools;
- ensure that all of the Trust’s designated teachers will undertake appropriate training;
- with each of the local Governing bodies and the schools’ designated teachers, have regard to this guidance and any other relevant guidance issued by the Secretary of State;
- aim to provide a safe and secure environment across the Trust, where education is valued and there is a belief in the abilities and potential of all children;
- aim to support all of the Trust’s students who are Looked After Children and give them access to every opportunity to achieve their potential and enjoy learning;

- aim to fulfil the role as corporate parents to promote and support the education and well-being of the Trust's students who are Looked After Children.

#### **THE LEARNING TRUST SCHOOLS WILL:-**

- Nominate a Designated teacher for Looked After Children who will act as an advocate and co-ordinate support for them.
- Nominate a school Governor to ensure that the needs of Looked After Children in the school are given due consideration.
- Support the Designated teacher in carrying out their role by making time available and ensuring that they attend training on Looked After Children.
- Comply with their obligations under the Data Protection Act 2018 and UK GDPR.

#### **THE DESIGNATED TEACHER WILL:**

- Maintain an up-to-date record of all Looked After Children who are on the school roll.
- Ensure that there is a Personal Education Plan (PEP) for each student to include appropriate targets. This must be compatible with the child's Care Plan and where applicable include any other school plan, e.g. Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP).
- Ensure that there are effective procedures in place to support a looked-after child's learning.
- Ensure that someone attends Children's Services Reviews on each student and/or always prepares a written report which promotes the continuity and stability of their education.
- Liaise with the Virtual School for Looked After Children on a regular basis regarding the performance, attendance and attainment of Looked After Children.
- Ensure that if/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.
- Report to the Governing Body each term on the performance of the Looked After children who are on the roll of the school.

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