



# **FARNEY CLOSE SCHOOL**

## **Child Looked After POLICY**

<b>Date last reviewed</b>	<b>June 2019</b>
<b>Review Due</b>	<b>June 2021</b>

## **Introduction**

A Child Looked After is a child who has been placed in the care of the local authority for more than 24 hours. These children were previously referred to as Looked After Children or Child in Care depending on the local authority they are from. The pupil may also have a preferred term that they wish to be referred to. Child Looked After at Farney Close may be living with foster carers, living in a residential children's home or living with parents but have a Looked After Child status due to being in a residential school. Child Looked After may be under a section 20 or a section 31 of the Children's Act 1989. Section 20 of the Children's Act 1989 is where the parents agree to their child being taken into care. The parents maintain parental responsibility for their child. Section 31 of the Children's Act 1989 is where a child is taken into care via a Court Order. Under this section, parental responsibility is shared between the local authority and the parents. The 1989 Children Act and DfEE Circular 13/94, places key responsibilities on schools and Local Authorities to address more effectively the needs of children who are Looked After in public care.

Research shows that nationally, Child Looked After significantly underachieve compared to their peers at school. They are more likely to get excluded from school and are at higher risk of becoming NEET. Farney Close School recognises the major role that it plays in helping young people in care to succeed and build a better future for themselves where they can be happy, healthy, safe and able to make a positive contribution to society.

Farney Close School supports the needs of Child Looked After by:

- Promoting attendance
- Building relationships
- Promoting inclusion
- Providing stability
- Listening to the views of the child
- Promoting health and wellbeing
- Reducing exclusions
- Staff training
- Working in partnership with carers, parents, social workers and other professionals

## **Roles and responsibilities of the Principle**

- Identify a Looked After Child Coordinator, whose role is set out below. It is essential that the Principle identify another person for this role if the Looked After Coordinator were to leave their employment or be on sick leave.
- Ensure that procedures are in place to monitor the attendance, admission, exclusions and progress of Child Looked After and that action is taken where necessary.
- Ensure all staff receive regular training and are aware of this policy and how best to support the pupils who are Child Looked After.

### **Roles and responsibility of the Looked After Child Coordinator**

- To be an advocate for the Child Looked After.
- Ensure that all Child Looked After have an allocated link worker and a member of staff that they feel they can talk to (this may be the same person).
- Ensure that a Personal Education Plan is completed every term. The pupil, their carer, social worker and other professionals should attend these meetings. If appropriate the pupil's parents should also be invited to attend.
- Ensure that all Farney Close paperwork for PEPs are completed prior to the PEP meeting.
- Ensure that the local authority paperwork is completed in a timely manner after the PEP.
- Attend the Looked After Child's annual review of their EHCP.
- Track the progress, both educationally and socially, and identify further support where necessary.
- Coordinate any support that takes place within school.
- Ensure confidentiality is maintained for the pupil and only share information on a need to know basis. Gain permission within PEP and CLA meetings to share information if necessary.
- Promote attendance. If attendance becomes a problem, complete a home visit or organise for another member of staff to complete a home visit.
- Act as an advisor to the members of staff and the governors. Give guidance on the needs of Child Looked After.
- Set up additional meetings in a timely manner if the pupil is experiencing difficulties within school or if they are facing exclusion.
- Communicate effectively with carers, parents, social workers and other external agencies. Ensure they are aware of any problems but also achievements that the young person is experiencing.
- Support the pupil through transitions they are experiencing such as, leaving school.
- Ensure that the attendance of the Child Looked After is reported to Welfare call each day.
- Ensure that any pupil premium the school receives for Child Looked After is used to promote achievement for the pupil.
- Ensure that sixth form pupils are receiving a bursary from college as Child Looked After are automatically entitled to this.

### **Roles and responsibility of all staff**

- Maintain confidentiality with regard to the Child Looked After and support them with sensitivity.
- Respond in a timely manner to any request of information or paperwork from the Looked After Child Coordinator.
- Report any problems or concerns regarding a Child Looked After Child to the Looked After Child Coordinator.
- Attend PEP and CLA meetings if asked to do so by the Child Looked After Coordinator.
- Understand the challenges Child Looked After face.
- Be aware that Child Looked After can often be the targets of bullying and act to prevent this happening.