

Proud to be a  **Bright Futures** EDUCATIONAL TRUST school

Marton Primary Academy and Nursery



Working Together To Be The Best We Can Be

Looked After Children Policy

Approved by the Full Governing Body March 2023

MARTON PRIMARY ACADEMY & NURSERY LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN'S POLICY

'Working Together To Be The Best We Can Be'

Nationally, Looked After Children significantly underachieve and are at greater risk of exclusion compared with their peers. At Marton Primary Academy and Nursery, we know we have an important part to play in ensuring that Looked After Children are exceptionally well prepared for the next steps in their lives. We aim to provide them with the knowledge and skills they need to be successful, enthusiastic learners and responsible individuals by providing a positive, safe and stimulating environment where all are included, and achievements are celebrated.

Designated Teacher for LAC: Miss Jo Reid

Named Governor for LAC: Mrs Trish Latimer

DEFINITIONS

Looked After Children (LAC) are defined as:

- Children or young people who are the subject of a Care Order or Interim Care Order under the Children Act 1989.
- Children who are placed in foster care, children's residential homes, with relatives or friends, in semi-independent or supported independent accommodation.
- Children subject to a Care or Interim Care Order whilst placed with a parent, where the LA has parental responsibility.
- Children who are not subject to an order but are accommodated by the LA under an agreement with their parents or respite care.

Previously - Looked After Children (PLAC) are defined as:

- Children who are no longer looked after by an LA in England and Wales because they have either been adopted or are the subject of an adoption, special guardianship or child arrangements order.
- Children who were adopted outside England and Wales from 'state care' (care that is provided by a public authority, religious organisation, or other organisation whose main purpose is to benefit society). LAC reviews, involving the school, will take place up until an adoption order has been granted. However, Pupil Premium Plus funding will continue for LAC until they are 16 years old.

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.
- support our looked after children and give them access to every opportunity to achieve to their potential, enjoy learning and take as full a part as possible in all school activities.
- ensure that school policies and procedures are followed for LAC as for all children.
- give priority consideration to Looked After Children in the school's oversubscription criteria.
- protect children from the risk of radicalisation and extremism
- work with the Virtual School and ensure that carers and social workers of LAC pupils are kept fully informed of their child's progress and attainment.
- ensure compliance with all relevant legislation connected to this policy
- work with other schools and the local authority to share good practice.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Governing Body

The governing body of this school will:

- ensure all 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 of School to ensure that the Designated Teacher is enabled to carry out her/his responsibilities in relation to Looked After Children;
- support the Head of School, 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.

Designated Teacher

The designated teacher will:

- 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;
- 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 Local Authority.

All Staff

All staff will:

- ensure that any child in public care is supported sensitively and that confidentiality is maintained;
- be familiar with the 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 and of Parents and Carers.

Role of Parents and Carers

Parents/Carers will:

- be aware of and comply with this policy;
- work in partnership with the school;
- comply with this policy for the benefit of the children;
- be asked to take part in periodic surveys conducted by the school;
- support the school Code of Conduct and guidance to ensure smooth running of the school.

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 Personal Educational Plan 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 of School or the Designated Teacher will be responsible for ensuring all staff are briefed on the regulations and practice outlined in this policy.

MONITORING, EVALUATION AND REVIEW

The date of the next review is Spring Term 2026.

Signature:



Date: 9th March 2023

Trish Latimer
Chair of Governors

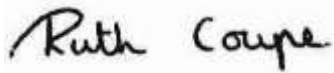
Signature:



Date: 9th March 2023

Alice Coyle
Head of School

Signature:



Date: 9th March 2023

Ruth Coupe
Executive Principal