




Baytree School

Children Looked After (CLA) Policy

Mandatory/Non-Mandatory	Mandatory
Model Policy	
Annual/Bi-Annual	Annual
Date Ratified by FGB	1 st February 2023
Signed (Chair of Governing Board)	 N. Galloway
Next Review Due	January 2024

Children Looked After (CLA) Policy February 2023



CLA Statement

The governors at Baytree School are committed to providing quality education for all its pupils including children and young people who become 'looked after' (if they have been taken into care by the Local Authority or have been accommodated by the Local Authority in a voluntary care arrangement), and the education of previously looked after children as referenced in the Children and Social Work Act 2017.

Most Children Looked After will be living with foster parents but a smaller number may be in children's residential units, living with a relative or even be placed at home with their birth parents.

Why do we need a CLA Policy?

For Children Looked After nationally it is recognised that there is considerable educational underachievement when compared with their peers and this Governing Body is committed to implementing the principles and practice as outlined in

1. DfEE Circular 0269/2000
2. DfEE/DOH Guidance 2000
3. Children Act 2004, specifically 'the duty to safeguard looked after children, to promote their educational achievements and to ensure they are able to achieve and reach their full potential'

Roles and Responsibilities of Governing Body

- Ensure that the admission criteria and practice prioritises children looked after according to the DfE Admissions Code of Practice
- Ensure all governors are fully aware of the legal requirements and guidance for Children Looked After
- Ensure there is a designated teacher for Children Looked After
- Liaise with the Headteacher, designated teacher, and all other staff to ensure the needs of Children Looked After are met
- Nominate a Governor with responsibility for CLA who links with the designated teacher
- Receive regular reports from the designated teacher which should include
 1. the number of Children Looked After on roll and the confirmation that they have a Personal Education Plan (PEP)
 2. Their attendance, compared to other pupils
 3. Their progress compared to other pupils
 4. The number of fixed term and permanent exclusions (if any)
 5. The destinations of CLA pupils when they leave the school
- Ensure that the school's policies and procedures give Children Looked After equal access in respect of
 - Admission to school
 - National Curriculum and examinations, both academic and vocational
 - Out of school learning and extra curricular activities
 - Work experience and careers guidance
- Regularly review the effective implementation of the school policy for Children Looked After
- To be accountable for the impact on funding

Roles and Responsibilities of the Designated Teacher

- Be an advocate for Children Looked After
- Attend relevant training for Children Looked After
- Act as the key liaison professional for other agencies and individuals in relation to Children Looked After seeking advice from the Local Authority Children Looked After Advisory Teachers when appropriate and the Virtual School.
- Ensure that all Children Looked After receive a positive reintegration on entering the school
- Ensure that all Children Looked After have an appropriate Personal Education Plan (PEP) and that it is completed within 20 days of joining the school or of entering care and reviewed every half term through Welfare Call alongside social care, family and other relevant professionals.
- Convene an urgent multi-professional meeting if a Child Looked After is experiencing difficulties or is at risk of exclusion
- Ensure confidentiality on individual children, sharing confidential/personal information on a need to know basis
- Act as the key advisor for staff and governors on issues relevant to Children Looked After
- Ensure that care and school liaison is effective, including invitations to meetings and other school events
- Actively encourage and promote out of hours learning and extra curricular activities for Children Looked After
- Ensure speedy transfer of information when a Child Looked After transfers into another education placement
- Contribute information to CLA reviews when required
- Provide regular reports to the Governing Body regarding CLA in the school and relevant policy and practice development

Roles and Responsibilities of the Whole School Staff

- Have high expectations of the educational and personal achievements of Children Looked After
- Positively promote the raising of a Child Looked After's self esteem
- Ensure any Child Looked After is supported sensitively and that confidentiality is maintained
- Be familiar with the Guidance on Children Looked After and respond appropriately to requests for information to support Personal Education Plans and review meetings
- Liaise with the designated teacher where a Child Looked After is experiencing difficulties
- Use exclusions only as a last resort,
- Contribute to regular liaison with social care colleagues and other appropriate professionals
- Keep appropriate records, confidentially as necessary, and make these available to other professionals as appropriate
- Ensure staff have access to training to support Children Looked After who are experiencing difficulties.

Policy Review

Designated teacher (Deputy Headteacher) for CLA reviewed this policy.

<u>Reviewed by</u> FGB:	<u>Reviewed by</u> FGB:	<u>Reviewed by</u> FGB:		
27 th January 2021	2 nd February 2022	1 st February 2023		
<u>Next Review due:</u>	<u>Next Review due:</u>	<u>Next Review due:</u>		
January 2022	January 2023	January 2024		