



HADRIAN SCHOOL POLICY ON THE EDUCATION OF LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN [LAC]

Hadrian School believes that, in partnership with Newcastle Upon Tyne City Council as Corporate Parents, we have a special duty to safeguard and promote the education of Looked After Children.

Rationale

Looked After Children are one of the most vulnerable groups in society. The majority of Looked After Children have suffered a disrupted childhood and experienced adverse events. It is nationally recognised that there is considerable educational under-achievement when compared to their peers. Looked After Children often achieve poor exam success rates in comparison to the general population. Fewer Looked After Children progress to Higher Education or follow progression pathways that will lead to future economic success and well-being.

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.

To fulfil our schools' role as corporate parents to promote and support the education of our Looked After Children, by asking the question, '**Would this be good enough for my child?**'

Legal Framework:

Under the Children Act 1989, a child is looked after by a local authority if he or she is in their care or provided with accommodation for more than 24 hours by the authority. They fall into four main groups:

1. Children who are accommodated under a voluntary agreement with their parents (Section 20)
2. Children who are the subjects of emergency orders for their protection (Sections 44 and 46)



Policy: Looked After Children Policy

Date: November 2017

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Websites - School: www.hadrian.newcastle.sch.uk HEADS: www.headstraining.co.uk



3. Children who are the subjects of a care order (Section 31) or interim care order (Section 38)
4. Children who are compulsorily accommodated – this includes children remanded to the Local Authority or subject to a criminal justice supervision order with a residence requirement (Section 21).

Children who are cared for on a voluntary basis are 'accommodated' by the Local Authority under Section 20 of the Children Act – they may live in foster care, in a Children's Home or in a residential school.

The term 'in care' refers only to children who are subject to a care order by the courts under Section 31 of the Children Act 1989 – they may live with foster carers, in a Children's Home, in a residential school, with relatives or with parents under supervision.

For all children who receive more than 75 days of 'short breaks' in every 12 months LAC status applies and an Independent Reviewing Officer is appointed. As the care arranged is not continuous, academic attainment does not have to be reported in the same way to the DfE.

All these groups are said to be 'Looked After Children' (LAC). They may be looked after by Newcastle Upon Tyne Local Authority or may be in the care of another Local Authority but living in Newcastle.

In Pursuit of this Policy Hadrian School will:

- Nominate a Designated Teacher for Looked After Children who will act as their advocate and coordinate support for them
- Nominate a School Governor to ensure that the needs of Looked After Children in the school are taken into account at Leadership Level and to support the Designated Teacher
- Support the Designated Teacher in carrying out their role by making time available and ensuring they attend relevant training for their specific role.

The name of the Designated Teacher for Looked After Children in Hadrian School is:

Marian Stokle, Deputy Head Teacher
Email: marian.stokle@hadrian.newcastle.sch.uk



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The Role of the Designated Teacher for Looked After Children

It is the role of the Governing body to support the Local Authority in its statutory duty to promote the educational achievement of Looked After Children and ensure that the school admits any child who is Looked After in line with the Admissions Code of Practice. The Designated Teacher will support the Governors in executing their duties by:

- Ensuring that all staff, both teaching and non-teaching, have an understanding of the difficulties and educational disadvantage faced by Looked After Children and that staff understand the need for positive systems of support to overcome them
- Maintaining accurate and up to date records 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 and contact details
 - Contact details of parents, carers, key workers in residential accommodation
 - SEN Information
 - Child Protection Information, where appropriate
 - Baseline Information and all test results
 - Attendance figures
 - Exclusions
- Ensuring 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. EHCP, and associated plans, Transition Plan, Pastoral Support Programme.
- Ensuring that someone attends Children's Services Reviews on each child/young person and/or always prepares a written report which promotes the continuity and stability of their education.
- Liaising with the Virtual School on a regular basis with regard to the performance, attendance and attainment of Looked After Children.
- Ensuring that if/when the child transfers school all relevant information is forwarded to the receiving school as a matter of priority.
- Ensuring 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.



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- Ensuring that the Pupil Premium is targeted at improving attainment and achievements. A summary of the impact of the Pupil Premium will be included on the school website.
- Celebrating the success of all Looked After Children and ensuring that they have equal opportunities to participate fully in the life of the school.
- Ensuring that systems are in place to keep staff up to date and informed about Looked After Children where and when appropriate.
- Ensuring that Looked After Children, along with all children, are listened to and have equal opportunity to pastoral support in school.
- Ensuring that they keep the school up to date with current legislation and its implication for the school in respect of Looked After Children.
- Reporting to the Governing Body annually on the performance of the Looked After Children who are on the roll of the school.
- Attending relevant training and cascading knowledge and information to school staff where appropriate.

The name of the Designated Governor for Looked After Children in Hadrian School is:

Brian Harrison

The Role of the Designated Teacher for Looked After Children

The named Governor will ensure that:

- A designated teacher is appointed
- The teacher has undertaken appropriate training
- The school's policies and procedure ensure that Looked After pupils have equal access to a curriculum relevant to their individual needs and any additional support they may require
- The Governing Body considers an annual report from the designated teacher
- Any issues the report may raise are acted upon.



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The Report may include:

- A comparison of assessment results for Looked After Children as a discrete group, compared with the attainment and progress of other pupils
- The attendance of pupils as a discrete group, compared with other pupils
- Any fixed term/permanent exclusions
- Pupil destinations.

Admission Arrangements

On admission, records (including the PEP) will be requested from the pupil's previous school and a meeting will be held with carer/parent/social worker. A date will be agreed for a new Personal Education Plan to be written.

Communication with Other Agencies

Schools should ensure that a copy of all reports (eg end of year reports) should be forwarded to the young person's Social Worker in addition to the Foster Carer or Residential Social Worker. It should be agreed at the PEP meeting what information parents will receive, this needs to be in line with the legal framework. The child's Social Worker will be able to advise on correspondence with parents and arrangements to seek consent for routine school activities.

Assessment, Monitoring and Review Procedures

Each Looked After Pupil will have a Care Plan that will include a Personal Education Plan (PEP) that the Social Worker takes a lead in developing. This will identify, success, specific areas of concern and include achievable targets. The PEP developed by Newcastle Local Authority is age group specific. Areas for consideration will include:

- Attendance
- Achievement Record
- Behaviour
- Homework
- Involvement in Extra Curricular Activities
- SEND
- Support being provided
- Use of Pupil Premium Plus

The PEP will be updated at least every six months, as part of the Statutory Reviewing process carried out by Children's Social Care. The PEP will be stored by the Local Authority and circulated to all key parties who attended the PEP meeting.



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The role of Newcastle Upon Tyne Local Authority:

- Provide a Virtual Head Teacher who has responsibility for championing the education of Looked After Children
- Lead the drive to improve educational and social care standards for Looked After Children
- Ensure that the education for this group of pupils is as good as that provided for every other pupil
- Ensure that Looked After Children receive a full-time education in a mainstream setting wherever possible
- Ensure that every Looked After Child has a school to go to within 20 school days of coming into care or of coming to Newcastle Upon Tyne from another authority
- Make sure that each Looked After Child has a PEP according to national guidance
- Ensure that every school has a Designated Teacher for Looked After Children and that these teachers receive appropriate information, support and training
- Ensure that appropriate support is provided whenever possible
- Provide advice and guidance for those Looked After Children and Care Leavers in Further and Higher Education
- Be vigilant and proactive in identifying additional needs and the special education needs of Looked After Children and work collaboratively with schools, other services and agencies to meet those needs
- Hold events that celebrate the achievement of Looked After Children
- Consider the views of all Looked After Children through a variety of strategies.

Local Authority contact details for the Education of Looked After Children are:

Newcastle Upon Tyne Virtual School
Acting Head of the Virtual School: Vivienne Cunneen

Room 218
2nd Floor
Civic Centre
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE1 8QH

Tel 0191 277 3646 (ext 23646)
Mob 07775 011 328



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Confirmation that the Looked After Children Policy in respect of Hadrian School has been discussed by the Governing Body.

Signed by:

Chair of Governors: _____ Date: _____

Head Teacher: _____ Date: _____

Agreed at the Governing Body Meeting on: _____



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