

Shurdington CofE Primary
Be the **BEST** we can be, with love.
Believe Enjoy Succeed Together

'Love God and love your neighbour as you love yourself.'

Matthew 22, verses 37 and 39.

Looked After Children(LAC) policy

Shurdington Church of England policies are written in the spirit of Christian values

Nationally, Looked After Children significantly underachieve and are at greater risk of exclusion, compared with their peers. Schools have a major part to play in ensuring that Looked After Children are enabled to be healthy, stay safe, enjoy, achieve, make a positive contribution to society and achieve economic well-being. This document outlines the responsibilities of the designated teacher for Looked After Children (LAC). It should be read in conjunction with the DfE document 'The Role and Responsibilities of the designated teacher for Looked After Children'.

Who are Looked After Children?

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.

Designated Teacher

The Designated Teacher must be a qualified teacher. He or she should be a senior member of staff who has enough status and experience to advise and provide training to school staff on issues relating to LAC. They need to be able to influence decisions about the teaching and learning of these children. Currently the Designated Teacher is Jo Townsend

Responsibilities in school:

- *promoting the educational achievement of LAC on their school roll.*
- *helping school staff understand the issues that affect the learning of LAC.*
- *removing the barriers to learning for LAC.*
- *ensuring any LAC new to the school are assessed when they start at the school to identify strengths and weaknesses in their learning. This will be used to inform planning and teaching.*
- *developing personalised learning packages for LAC in conjunction with the relevant teaching staff.*

- ensuring that the LAC in their school have a voice in setting learning targets for themselves.
- championing for LAC.
- leading on developing and implementing the PEP within the school. The social worker is responsible for initiating the PEP process completing the front page of the PEP form.
- monitoring the child's progress against the targets on the PEP and extending these targets if they have been achieved.
- ensuring the child makes a smooth transition to the new school and that the child's records are transferred without delay.
- producing at least one annual report to the governing body which should include: current progress, attendance and exclusions (if any), any concerns regarding behaviour, how the PEP has been implemented and whether the actions put in place are effective in addressing the learning needs of LAC, how the DT works in partnership with the LA, training undertaken for carrying out the role effectively. The report must not mention the children's names for confidentiality reasons.
- promoting good home-school links and the importance of education as a way of improving life chances for LAC.
- attending all review and progress meetings

(Whilst remaining the ultimate responsibility of the Designated Teacher and Headteacher, any of the above tasks may be delegated to other members of staff, particularly the school's Pastoral Lead, currently Laura Abraham.)

The role and responsibility of the governing body

- Support the local authority in its statutory duty to promote the educational achievement of looked after children.
- Ensure that the Designated Teacher is given the appropriate level of support in order to fulfil their role.
- In partnership with the headteacher, ensure that, through their training and development, the Designated Teacher has the opportunity to acquire and keep up-to-date the necessary skills, knowledge and training to understand the respond to the specific teaching and learning needs of LAC.
- Governing bodies and the SLT should make sure that the Designated Teacher role contributes to the deeper understanding of everyone in the school who is likely to be involved in supporting LAC to achieve.
- The governing body, in partnership with the head teacher, is responsible for monitoring how well the role is working. As part of this monitoring an annual report will be received from the Designated Teacher.

The school will champion the needs of Looked After Children, raise awareness and challenge negative stereotypes about them, in order to ensure that they achieve to the highest level possible.

For more information, please refer to:

[Promoting the Education of Looked After Children](#)

[NSPCC Looked After Children](#)

[The Virtual School - Gloucestershire](#)

[GCC Previously Looked After Children Guidance](#)

Signed:

Headteacher

Designated Teacher

Date:

(This will be reviewed and updated every three years, or earlier if required)