

Statement Concerning Looked After Children (LAC) Manchester High School for Girls Senior School and Preparatory Department, including EYFS

Definition:

A child who has been in the care of their local authority for more than 24 hours is known as a looked after child. Looked after children are also often referred to as children in care, a term which many children and young people prefer.

Each UK nation has a slightly different definition of a looked after child and follows its own legislation, policy and guidance. But in general, looked after children are:

- living with foster parents
- living in a residential children's home or
- living in residential settings like schools or secure units.

Aims of the care of a Looked After Child at MHSG:

All staff must:

- Know and comply with the School's procedures relating to a Looked After Child
- Have the skills, knowledge and understanding necessary to keep a Looked After Child safe
- Where appropriate, have the information they need in relation to a child's looked after and legal status to ensure that the School complies with the interim or full care order
- Contribute to the Designated Person's requests for information on educational attainment and needs, as appropriate
- Provide a supportive climate to enable a Looked After Child to achieve stability within the school setting
- Have high aspirations for the educational and personal achievement of a Looked After Child

Roles and Responsibilities:

The Designated Person

The DSL for the Preparatory Department or the Senior School will:

- Closely monitor the progress and attendance of a Looked After Child.
- Be aware of the emotional, psychological and social effects of loss and separation from birth families and other Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE)
- Ensure that Looked After Children are not treated differently from their peers and show sensitivity about who else knows about their LAC status
- Ensure that a Looked After Child has a PEP (Personal Educational Plan) that reflects their achievements and targets
- Keep the PEP up to date, particularly in time to inform review meetings
- Work in partnership with all professionals, parents and carers (where relevant) of a Looked After Child. This includes attending and contributing to review meetings
- Have the information needed to ensure that contact arrangements with birth parents or those with parental responsibility comply with the interim or full court order
- Have the information needed relating to the care arrangements and the levels of authority delegated to the carer by the authority looking after them
- Have the details of the child's social worker and the name of the virtual school head in the authority that looks after the child
- Identify one member of staff who will, in compliance with the Welfare Call (LAC) Ltd, take the daily call to confirm the attendance of the Looked After Child
- Ensure confidentiality for the Looked After Child and only share personal information on a need to know basis
- Ensure the speedy transfer of information between individuals and other relevant agencies and to a new school if and when the child transfers
- Keep the Head Mistress and Governor (in charge of safeguarding) informed about concerns relating to a Looked After Child

The School Nurse:

- Provide information relating to the medical care of the Looked After Child to external services as requested, particularly in preparation for review meetings
- Contribute, as appropriate, to the medical and pastoral support of the Looked After Child
- Attend review meetings

The Head Mistress:

- Ensure that the DSL has the time and resources needed to fulfil her duties in line with the procedures relating to a Looked After Child
- Oversee the academic progress and pastoral support of a Looked After Child

The Role of the Governors:

- Identify a nominated Governor for Looked After Children. This Governor will be the same Governor who oversees child protection and safeguarding arrangements in school
- Ensure that all Governors are fully aware of the legal requirements and guidance on the education of Looked After Children
- Be aware of whether the School has Looked After Children
- Ensure that the School's policies and procedures support the needs of a Looked After Child
- Ensure that there is a designated person appointed to monitor the academic and pastoral support of a Looked After Child
- Liaise with the Head Mistress to ensure that the Designated Person is able to carry out her responsibilities in relation to a Looked After Child

Training

The Designated Person will be responsible for ensuring that all staff are briefed on the regulations and practice outlined in this statement.

Statement updated - April 2023

Approved by the Head Mistress April 2023