

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

This statement observes the requirements set out in *Manchester City Council Children and Young People's Strategy 2016/2019* and *The Designated Teacher for LAC and Previously LAC Children 2018*.

Definition:

MHSG acknowledges that Manchester Safeguarding Children's Board (MSCB) uses the term Child Looked After (CLA) when referring to a Looked After Child, but in line with Government statutory guidance MHSG will use the acronym LAC.

A child 'looked-after by a local authority' is one who is looked after within the meaning of section 22 of Children Act 1989 or Part 6 of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014.

A previously looked-after child is one who is no longer looked after in England and Wales because they are the subject of an adoption, special guardianship or child arrangements order which includes arrangements relating to with whom the child is to live, or when the child is to live with any persons, or has been adopted from 'state care' outside England and Wales.

A child is in 'state care' outside England and Wales if they are in the care of or accommodated by a public authority, a religious organisation or any other organisation the sole or main purpose of which is to benefit society.

The term 'looked after' refers to a child who is either accommodated (whereby the local authority provides for the child on an agreed basis with the person who has parental responsibility) or is subject to a care order (whereby a court order grants shared parental responsibility to the local authority in order to protect and promote a child's welfare). Children in both instances could be living with foster carers, in a residential unit, with relatives or with parent/s on a part or full time basis.

A Looked After Child is considered a vulnerable child who may suffer from low self-esteem, delayed cognitive and emotional development, isolation and poor educational standards.

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

At MHSG the Designated Safeguarding Lead in the Senior School and Preparatory Department are the LAC Designated Person

The Designated Person 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 her 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 her
- 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

Previously looked-after children

The Designated Person has responsibility for promoting the educational achievement of previously looked-after pupils who are no longer looked after in England and Wales because they are the

subject of an adoption, special guardianship or child arrangements order, or were adopted from 'state care' outside England and Wales;

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 Designated Person 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 amended by Ann Goddard - April 2020

Approved by the Head Mistress – April 2020