

## **Statement Concerning Looked After Children (LAC) and Previously Looked After Children (PLAC) Manchester High School for Girls Senior School and Preparatory School, 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 with friends or relatives, through kinship foster care
- living in a residential children's home or
- living in residential settings like schools or secure units.

A child stops being 'looked after' when they are adopted, return home or turn 18. Not all children in the care of someone other than their parents have 'looked after' status. For example, they may be in private kinship care or cared for under a special guardianship order.

The School complies with the provisions of the Education Act 1996, the Pupil Registration Regulations 2006, the Education (Pupil Registration) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2010, 2011, 2013, 2016 and 2024. It also complies with the advice provided by the DfE in the following documents:

- The designated teacher for looked-after and previously looked-after children (February 2018)
- Keeping Children Safe in Education (annual update)

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

Manchester High School for Girls is committed to supporting looked after and previously looked after children to ensure that they are able to achieve their potential academically, socially and emotionally.

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 School or the Senior School are the Designated Person for each School stage. They 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 and that they are trained on the potential barriers that a looked after child may face and know how to support them with these barriers.

Statement updated - April 2026

Approved by the Head Mistress – May 2026