The Meadows Primary School

Policy in supporting the educational outcomes for looked after and previously looked after children

Last updated: Summer 2025

Due to be reviewed: Summer 2027

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Statement of intent

Educational achievement and subsequent life chances for looked after and previously LAC are of real concern. Pupils who are looked after and previously looked after require special treatment and additional attention in order to improve their situation.

The Meadows Primary School endeavours to provide positive experiences and offer stability, safety, and individual care and attention, for all our pupils. With this in mind, we aim to:

- Encourage pupils to reach their potential and to make good progress in relation to their professional, social and emotional development.
- Ensure that pupils enjoy high quality teaching and a curriculum which meets their needs and the requirements of legislation.
- Plan support for looked after and previously looked after children realistically and using the school's resources efficiently in order to ensure the school meets their needs.
- Promote a positive culture in all aspects of school life.
- Help pupils develop their cultural, moral and social understanding.

Signed by:

	Headteacher	Date:	Summer 2025
	Chair of governors	Date:	Summer 2025

1. Legal framework

1.1. This policy has due regard to legislation and statutory guidance, including, but not limited to, the following:

- Children Act 1989
- The Care Planning, Placement and Case Review (England) Regulations 2010
- Children (Leaving Care) Act 2000
- Children and Young Persons Act 2008
- Children and Families Act 2014
- Children and Social Work Act 2017
- DfE (2018) 'Promoting the education of looked-after children and previously looked-after children'
- DfE (2017) 'Exclusions from maintained schools, academies and pupil referral units in England'

1.2. This policy operates in conjunction with the following school policies and documents:

- **Admissions Policy**
- **Behavioural Policy**
- **Home School Agreement**
- **Anti-Bullying Policy**
- **Equal Opportunities Policy**
- **Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy**
- **Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Policy**

2. Definitions

2.1. **Looked after children** 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, as 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 (Section 20)

2.2. **Previously looked after children** are defined as:

- Children no longer looked after by an LA in England and Wales because they 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).

3. Roles and responsibilities

3.1. The governing body is responsible for:

- Ensuring the school has a coherent policy for LAC and previously-LAC.
- Reviewing the school's policies and procedures in conjunction with legislation and statutory guidance.
- Ensuring the designated teacher for LAC and previously-LAC has received the appropriate training.
- Ensuring LAC and previously-LAC have equal access to all areas of the curriculum and that reasonable adjustments are made, if necessary.
- Reviewing the annual report produced by the designated teacher to evaluate the progress of LAC in the school.
- Ensuring they receive feedback from the headteacher regarding the effectiveness of the policy on an annual basis.

3.2. The virtual school head (VSH) is responsible for:

- Monitoring the attendance and educational progress of the children their authority looks after.
- Ensuring that arrangements are in place to improve the education and outcomes of the authority's LAC, including those placed out-of-authority.
- Building relationships with health, education and social care partners, as well as other partners, so they and the designated teachers understand the support available to LAC and previously-LAC children.
- Working with the school to ensure all LAC in attendance are fully supported in reaching their full potential.
- Acting as the educational advocate for LAC.
- Acting as a source of advice and information to help parents of previously-LAC as effectively as possible.

- Ensuring there are effective systems in place to:
    - Maintain an up-to-date roll of the LAC who are in school settings, and gather information about their educational placement, attendance and progress.
    - Inform the head teacher and designated teacher if they have a pupil on roll who is looked after by the LA.
    - Ensure social workers, schools, designated teachers, carers and IROs understand their role and responsibilities regarding a pupil's PEP.
    - Ensure that up-to-date and effective PEPs that focus on educational outcomes are maintained for all LAC.
    - Avoid delays in providing suitable educational provision.
    - Ensure the education achievement of LAC and previously LAC is seen as a priority by everyone who has responsibilities for promoting their welfare.
    - Report regularly on the attainment, progress and school attendance of LAC through the authority's corporate parenting structures.

3.3. The head teacher is responsible for:

- Appointing the designated teacher for LAC and previously-LAC.
- Allowing the designated teacher the time and facilities to succeed in carrying out their duties.
- Overseeing this policy and monitoring its implementation, feeding back to the governing board annually on the following:
    - The number of LAC and previously-LAC in the school
    - An analysis of assessment scores as a cohort, compared to other pupil groups
    - The attendance of LAC and previously-LAC, compared to other pupil groups
    - The level of fixed term and permanent exclusions, compared to other pupil groups
- Ensuring all members of staff are aware that supporting LAC and previous LAC is a key priority.
- Promoting actively challenging negative stereotypes of LAC.

3.4. The designated teacher for LAC and previously-LAC is responsible for:

- Building relationships with health, education and social care partners and other partners so that they and the VSH understand the support available to LAC and previously-LAC.

- Promoting the educational achievement of LAC and previously-LAC at the school.
- Acting as the main contact for social services and the education department.
- Promoting a culture of high expectations and aspirations.
- Ensuring LAC are involved in setting their own targets.
- Advising staff on teaching strategies for LAC and previously LAC.
- Ensuring that LAC and previous LAC are prioritised for one-to-one tuition and support.
- Leading on how the child's personal education plan PEP is developed and used in school to ensure the child's progress towards targets is monitored.
- Liaising with the SENCO to ensure all pupil needs are met.
- Working with the child's VSH and social worker to develop and implement their PEP.
- Working with the headteacher to submit an annual report to the governing board, which details the progress of all LAC and previously-LAC.

3.5. The SENCO is responsible for:

- Ensuring they are involved in reviewing PEP and care plans for LAC if the child has Special Educational Needs.
- Liaising with the class teacher, designated teacher, specialists and parents when considering interventions to support the progress of previously-LAC.

3.6. Staff are responsible for:

- Being aware of LAC and previously-LAC in their classes and providing them with support and encouragement.
- Preserving confidentiality, where appropriate, and showing sensitivity and understanding.
- Being vigilant for any signs of bullying towards LAC and previously-LAC.
- Promoting the self-esteem of LAC and previously-LAC.

4. Personal education plans (PEPs)

4.1. All LAC must have a care plan; PEPs are an integral part of this care plan.

4.2. The PEP is an evolving record of what needs to happen for a pupil to enable them to make the expected progress and fulfil their potential.

4.3. The PEP will reflect the importance of a personalised approach to learning which meets the identified educational needs of the child.

4.4. The school will work with other professionals and the child's carers to use the PEP to support the child's educational needs, raise the child's aspirations and improve their life chances.

4.5. All relevant bodies, such as the LA, the designated teacher and carers, will involve the child in the PEP process at all stages.

4.6. The PEP will address the pupil's full range of education and development needs, including:

- On-going catch-up support, which will be made available for children who have fallen behind with work.
- Suitable education provided by the LA, where the child is not in school because of suspension or exclusion.
- Transitional support where needed, such as if a child is moving to a new school.
- School attendance and behaviour support, where appropriate.
- Support to help the child meet their aspirations, which includes:
  - Support to achieve expected levels of progress for the relevant national key stage and to complete an appropriate range of approved qualifications.
  - Careers advice, guidance and financial information about FE, training and employment, that focusses on the child's strengths, capabilities and the outcomes they want to achieve.
  - Out-of-school hours learning activities, study support and leisure interests.

5. Working with agencies and the VSH

5.1. The school will ensure that copies of all relevant reports are forwarded to the social workers, in addition to parents/carers or residential social workers.

5.2. The school will coordinate their review meetings; for example, hold their annual EHCP review at the same time at the PEP review

5.3. The school will work with other agencies to exchange information such as changes in circumstances, exclusions or attendance issues.

5.4. Behaviour management strategies will be agreed between the VSH and the school, to ensure challenging behaviour is managed in the most effective way for that individual child.

5.5. The designated teacher for LAC and previously-LAC will communicate with the VSH and child's social worker to facilitate the completion of the PEP.

5.6. Through the designated teacher, the school will work with the VSH, social worker and other relevant agencies to monitor any arrangements in place so that actions and activities recorded in the child's PEP are implemented without delay.

5.7. The designated teacher will communicate with the VSH and agree on how pupil premium plus (PP+) can be used effectively to accommodate the child's educational attainment and progress.

5.8. PP+ for previously-LAC will be allocated directly to, and managed by, the school.

5.9. The school will work with the VSH to manage allocation of PP+ for the benefit of our cohort of LAC, or previously-LAC, and according to their needs.

5.10. If deemed necessary, the school will allocate an amount of funding to an individual to support their needs.

5.11. The designated teacher will ensure consistent and strong communication with the VSH regarding LAC who are absent without authorisation.

5.12. The school will share their expertise on what works in supporting the education of LAC and previously-LAC.

6. Training

6.1. The designated teacher and other school staff involved in the education of LAC and previously-LAC have received the appropriate training, this includes information about the following:

- School admissions arrangements
- SEND
- Attachment and the impact of trauma
- Attendance / Exclusions
- Homework
- GCSE options
- Managing and challenging behaviour
- Promoting positive educational and recreational activities
- Supporting pupils to be aspirational for their future education, training and employment

7. Pupil mental health

7.1. LAC and previously-LAC are more likely to experience the challenge of social, emotional and mental health issues which can impact their behaviour and education. Designated teachers will have awareness, training and skills

regarding a child's needs and how to support them in relation to behaviour management and mental health.

7.2. The designated teacher will work with the VSH to ensure the school is able to identify signs of potential mental health issues, understand the impact issues can have on LAC and previously-LAC, and knows how to access further assessment and support, where necessary.

7.3. To measure, if necessary, the emotional and behavioural difficulties experienced by LAC. A Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire will be used to help social workers and other relevant professionals to form a view about LAC's emotional wellbeing. Teachers will regularly complete their element of the questionnaire to assist social workers in their assessment.

8. Exclusions

8.1. Past experiences of LAC and previously-LAC will be considered when designing and implementing the school's Behaviour Policy.

8.2. The school will have regard to the DfE's statutory guidance 'Exclusions from maintained schools, academies and pupil referral units in England' and, as far as possible, avoid excluding any LAC and previously LAC

8.3. Where the school has concerns about a child's behaviour, the VSH will be informed at the earliest opportunity.

8.4. Exclusion will only be considered as a last resort; where exclusion is considered, the school will work with the VSH, and others, to consider what additional support can be provided to prevent exclusion, and any additional arrangements that can be made to support the pupil's education in the event of exclusion.

8.5. The school will inform parents that they can seek the advice of the VSH on strategies to support their child to avoid exclusion for previously LAC children.

9. Pupils with SEND

9.1. Support for LAC with SEND, who do not need an EHC plan, will be covered as part of the child's PEP and care plan reviews.

9.2. The SENCO, class teacher, designated teacher and specialists will involve parents when considering interventions to support their child's progress.

9.3. If appropriate, the VSH will be invited to comment on proposed SEND provision for previously-LAC.

10. Information sharing

10.1. Appropriate and specific arrangements for sharing reliable data are in place to ensure that the education needs of LAC and previously-LAC are understood and met.

10.2. The arrangements set out:

- Who has access to what information and how the security of data will be ensured.
- How pupils and parents are informed of, and allowed to challenge, information that is kept about them.
- How carers contribute to and receive information.
- Mechanisms for sharing information between the school and relevant LA departments.
- How relevant information about individual pupils is passed between authorities, departments and the school when pupils move.

11. Monitoring and review

11.1. This policy will be previewed on a biennial basis by the designated teacher for looked after children, before being reviewed by the Governing Body.

11.2. The next scheduled review date for this policy is **Summer 2027.**