

# NTS: Children Looked After Policy

## Introduction

The governing body of the Nelson Thomlinson School is committed to providing high quality education for all its pupils on equality of opportunity, access and outcomes. This governing body recognises that, nationally, there is considerable educational underachievement of children looked after, when compared with their peers, and is committed to improving outcomes for children looked after. We aim to contribute to achieving the five outcomes of Every Child Matters, which is the Government's aim for every child, whatever their background or their circumstances:

- **Stay safe**
- **Be healthy**
- **Enjoy and achieve**
- **Make a positive contribution**
- **Achieve economic well being.**

The governing body is committed to ensuring that children looked after are supported as fully as possible and will ensure that the following are in place, and are working effectively.

- A Designated Governor For Children Looked After – Ms S Temple
- A designated Teacher for Children Looked After – Mrs M Banks
- Personal Education Plans for all Children Looked After
- Training for Staff which ensures that all relevant staff have a clear understanding of the issues that affect Children Looked After, their learning needs, how to support them in school and issues relating to confidentiality

## Who are Children Looked After?

Under the Children Act 1989, a child is looked after by a local authority if he or she is in their care or provided with accommodation for more than 24 hours by the authority. They fall into four main groups:

- Children who are accommodated under a voluntary agreement with their parents (section 20)
- Children who are the subjects of a care order (Section 31) or interim care order (section 38)
- Children who are the subjects of emergency orders for their protection (section 44 and 46)
- Children who are compulsorily accommodated – this includes children remanded to the local authority or subject to a criminal justice supervision order with a residence requirement (section 21).

The term '**in care**' refers to children who are subject to a care order by the courts under section 31 of the Children Act 1989 – they may live with foster carers, in a Children's homes, in a residential school, with relatives or with parents under supervision.

Children who are cared for on a voluntary basis are '**accommodated**' by the local authority under section 20 of the Children Act – they may live in foster care, in a Children's home or in a residential school. All these groups are said to be '**Children Looked After**' –CLA. They may be looked after by our local authority or may be in the care of another authority but living in ours.

## ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE DESIGNATED TEACHER

The Designated Teacher will:

- be an advocate for Children Looked After;
- when new to the school, ensure a smooth and welcome induction for the child and carer, and note any specific requirements, including care status;
- ensure that a Personal Education Plan (PEP) is completed, as soon as possible (at least within 20 days of entering care or joining a new school).  
This should be prepared with the child and the carer, in liaison with the social worker and other relevant support workers/agencies, and be linked to the Care Plan meetings, within 28 days, 3 months and 6 months and, least, every 6 months;

- keep PEPs and other records up to date, particularly in time to inform review meetings;
- ensure that arrangements are in place to rigorously monitor the progress of children looked after;
- ensure appropriate support and intervention is in place for any child looked after who has fallen behind their peers so that the child can catch up and keep up with their peers;
- provide advice and guidance to staff on the learning needs of CLA and how to differentiate learning to meet those needs;
- ensure that each child looked after (if they wish) has an identified member of staff that they can talk to (this should be based on the child's request, and may not be necessarily be the Designated Teacher);
- ensure that any Special Educational Needs are addressed in conjunction with the SENCO and in accordance with the Code of Practice for SEN
- co-ordinate support for the child in the school and liaise with other professionals and carers as necessary;
- ensure staff receive relevant information and training and act as an advisor to staff and governors on a need to know basis.

## **ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITY OF THE GOVERNING BODY**

The governing body of this school will:

- ensure all governors are full aware of the legal requirements and Guidance for Children Looked After;
- receive at least annual report from the designated teacher in line with the statutory requirement;
- be aware of whether the school has Children Looked After and how many (no names)
- ensure that there is a named Designated Teacher for Children Looked After;
- liaise with the Head Teacher to ensure that the Designated Teacher is enabled to carry out her/his responsibilities in relation to Children Looked After;
- ensure that the designated teacher is able to access training needed to fulfil the role of the designated teacher;
- support the Head Teacher, Designated Teacher and other staff in ensuring the needs of Children Looked After are met;
- nominate a governor who links with the Designated Teacher, receives regular progress reports and provides feedback to the governing body. (These reports should not include any names of individual children for child protection and confidentiality reasons)
- review the effective implementation of this policy, preferably annually and at least every three years.

Adopted: 11<sup>th</sup> November 2010

Reviewed by the Pastoral Committee 4<sup>th</sup> October 2012

Review: Annually

Next review due: October 2013