



Carlton Academy Trust Looked After Children Policy

Ratified on behalf of trust board:

Sept 2020

Signed on behalf of trustees:

G Logan

Signed on behalf of CEO:

A Kneeshaw

Next Review date:

Sept 2021

Next Review Date:

Definitions

Looked After Children (LAC): are students that are in the care of a local authority and / or provided with accommodation by a local authority for a continuous period of more than 24 hours.

Previously Looked After Children (PLAC) are students that were looked after by a Local Authority but ceased to be as a result of:

- A Child Arrangements Order, which includes arrangements relating to who the child lives with and when they are to live with them.
- Special Guardianship order
- Adoption order.

Virtual School Head (VSH) is a Local Authority officer responsible for promoting the educational achievement of LAC, working across schools to monitor and support students as if they were in a single school. The VSH is also responsible for providing information and advice to schools and parents/carers.

Policy Aims and Scope

Carlton Academy Trust is committed to supporting LAC/PLAC students and supporting them to meet their full potential, which is in alignment with the Trust's mission to create excellent outcomes for all students.

Looked After Children and Barriers to their Education

The educational attainment of LAC nationally in all key stages is significantly lower than non-LAC students. This is often due to them suffering disrupted learning through distressing or traumatic experiences, or missing extended periods of school. Together they create significant barriers to learning and progress in school

Students frequently require a wide range of strategies and resources to address this disadvantage, which commonly comprises foster carers, residential care workers, social workers, as well as parents/guardians of PLAC.

Roles and Responsibilities

This section outlines how the Trust aims to optimise the education of LAC/PLAC through various roles and positions:

Trustees and Local Governing Bodies

The Trustees, and the governing bodies of each school will ensure:

- Schools are clear regarding their responsibilities to CLA/PLAC students
- Each school has a designated person to support CLA/PLAC students, who has appropriate seniority, training, and professional experience to successfully fulfil the role.
- There is a designated Trustee who will oversee LAC/PLAC provision at all Trust schools.

Heads of School will:

- Provide an annual report to governors outlining provision and outcomes for LAC and PLAC students.
- Appoint an appropriately senior, trained and qualified designated person for LAC and PLAC students.
- Ensure that procedures are in place to monitor the admission, progress, attendance and exclusions of LAC/PLAC students.

Designated Teacher for LAC/PLAC

The designated teacher is the central point of contact within schools for LAC or PLAC students, coordinating provision for these students and seeking to minimise any disruptions to learning.

They will:

- Keep a confidential and up to date record of all LAC/PLAC students, promptly forwarding these should a child change school.
 - Provide appropriate and relevant training and guidance to staff to enable them to understand and negotiate the barriers facing LAC/PLAC students.
 - Keep the parents/carers of LAC/PLAC well informed of the educational provision relating to their child.
 - Recognise the need for multi-agency working to address the needs of LAC/PLAC.
-
- Ensure staff understand the factors which may affect how LAC/PLAC students learn, and how the whole school supports the educational achievement of these students.
 - Promote a culture in which LAC/PLAC students are able to discuss their progress and be involved in setting their own targets, have their views taken seriously, and are supported and encouraged to take responsibility for their own learning.
 - Ensure there are positive and productive relationships with 'home', fully involving them in their child's education, that enhance the provision and development of the student.
 - Ensure safeguarding concerns are dealt with quickly and effectively.
 - Ensure CLA/PLAC students have full access and priority for academic interventions, one-to-one tuition or similar.

- Oversees manages and leads on provision of Personal Education Plans (PEP's) of all LAC/PLAC students, setting and reviewing individual targets on at least a bi-annual basis.

All Staff

Staff will:

- Have an overview and understanding of the key issues affecting the LAC/PLAC students they teach, and how these may affect them.
- Have high aspirations for LAC/PLAC students, ensuring they are appropriately supported and achieve their potential.
- Look to develop the confidence and esteem of LAC/PLAC students.
- Maintain confidentiality relating to LAC/PLAC students.