



CARLTON
ACADEMY TRUST

Carlton Academy Trust Looked After Children Policy

Approved on behalf of Trustees:

Gareth Logan

Date:

July 2021

Next Review Date:

September 2022



Policy Aims and Scope

Carlton Academy Trust is committed to supporting Looked After Children (LAC) and Previously Looked After Children (PLAC) to meet their full potential.

Definitions

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

Previously Looked After Children are students that were looked after by a local authority but ceased to be as a result of a:

- Child Arrangements Order
- Special Guardianship order
- Adoption order.

Virtual School Head (VSH): is a local authority officer responsible for promoting the educational achievement of LAC/PLAC, 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.

Barriers to Attainment

The educational attainment of LAC/PLAC nationally is significantly lower than other students across all key stages. This is often due to disrupted learning caused by experiencing or observing distressing or traumatic experiences or missing extended periods of school. Together they create significant barriers to educational attainment.

Students frequently require a wide range of strategies and resources to address their disadvantage.

Responsibilities

Trustees/Local Governing Bodies

Trustees and local governing bodies will ensure:

- Schools are aware of their responsibilities relating to LAC/PLAC students, with each having a designated person to support them who has appropriate seniority, training, and experience.
- There is a designated Trustee who will oversee LAC/PLAC provision across all schools.

Heads of School

Heads of school will:

- 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

The Designated Teacher for LAC is the central point of contact within schools for LAC/PLAC students, coordinating provision and removing barriers to learning. They will:

- Provide appropriate and relevant staff training and guidance 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
- Promote a culture in which LAC/PLAC students can have their views taken seriously, discuss their progress and targets, have their views taken seriously and take responsibility for their own learning.
- Ensure there are positive and productive relationships with 'home', fully involving them in their child's education.
- Ensure safeguarding concerns are dealt with quickly and effectively.
- Ensure LAC/PLAC students have full access and priority for academic interventions, tuition or similar.
- Have lead responsibility for the development and implementation of the child's personal education plan (PEP) within the school, setting and reviewing individual targets on at least a bi-annual basis.
- To attend, or arrange for someone else to attend, or to contribute in other ways to care planning meetings and statutory reviews
- To report to the Trustees/Local Governing Body, on an annual basis on the outcomes for LAC/PLAC children.

Designated Safeguarding Lead

The DSL is responsible for:

- Keeping confidential up-to-date records of LAC's respective social worker and VSH, promptly forwarding these to a new school when appropriate
- Where a child ceases to be looked after and becomes a care leaver, keeping up to - date contact details of their LA personal advisor and liaising with the advisor as necessary regarding any issues of concern affecting the care leaver.

All Staff

All 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.

Trust Director of Safeguarding

- Will provide support through supervision of the Designated Teacher for LAC.

