

Children Looked After & Post LA Policy (Including Designated Teacher for CLA/Post CLA)

Agreed by Governors

Committee/FGB	**Date:**	**Revisions**	**Next Review Date:**
Learning & Attainment	Spring 2017		Spring 2020
FGB	Spring 2020		Spring 2023
FGB (language revisions)	Spring 2022		Spring 2023
Learning & Attainment	Spring 2023		Spring 2026
Learning & Attainment	Spring 2026	None	Spring 2029

Principles

Robin Hood Junior School is committed to providing quality education for all its pupils, based on equality of opportunity, access and outcomes. We recognise that, nationally, there is considerable educational underachievement of children in residential and foster care, when compared with their peers, and are committed to implementing the principles and practice outlined in the statutory guidance which includes:

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/designated-teacher-for-looked-after-children https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/promoting-the-education-of-looked-after-children

Aims

National studies show that Children Looked After (CLA) and C Post LA (CPLA) *may* (or may not):

- present with low self esteem
- present with poor education standards due to time out of school
- present with delayed social/emotional/ cognitive development
- be bullied or bully others.
- be prone to poor mental health
- be isolated
- have behaviour that challenges.
- present with poor attachments to others.
- have a need to be very private.

This makes them an extremely vulnerable group in terms of education and future life-chances. We committed to ensuring that these children are supported as fully as possible and will ensure that the following are in place, and are working effectively:

- a named Designated Teacher and Governor for Children Looked After (CLA) and CPLA Personal Education Plans for all Children Looked After (CLA) and CPLA.
- all staff have a clear understanding of confidentiality and issues that affect Children Looked After (CLA) and C P LA
- strategies that supports the education & wellbeing of this group.

Practice

Children Looked After (CLA) may be

"Accommodated" "In Care" or "Remanded/ Detained" as follows:

Accommodated (Section 20) This is a voluntary arrangement, because parents are ill, missing, unable to cope, or as part of a child protection plan negotiated with the family. The parents retain parental responsibility.

In Care - A child is in care only if a court has granted a Care Order which it will issue if it believes a child to be suffering or likely to suffer significant harm. A care order generally gives parental responsibility to the local authority, or shares this with the parents.

Remanded/Detained - A child can be remanded or detained as in the following:

- an emergency protection order
- emoved by police using their powers of protection
- remanded by a court following criminal charges
- a court directing a social services department to accommodate a child (already on a supervision order for criminal behaviour) for up to six months.

Role and responsibility of the designated

teacher The Designated Teacher will:

- be an advocate for Children Looked After (CLA) and CPLA;
- when new to the school, ensure a smooth and welcome induction for the child and carer, and note any specific requirements, including care status;
- work with the relevant Virtual School
- ensure that a Personal Education Plan (PEP) is completed, as soon as possible. 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, at least, every 6 months;
- keep PEPs and other records up to date, particularly in time to inform review meetings;
- ensure that each child in public care (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 necessarily be the Designated Teacher);
- 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;
- ensure confidentiality for individual children and only share personal information on a need to know basis;
- provide written information to assist planning/review meetings and ensure attendance as far as possible;
- ensure that the child and carer(s) receive early notification of meetings, parents' evenings and other events and that communication remains regular and positive.
- encourage Children Looked After (CLA) and CPLA to participate in extra-curricular activities and out of hours learning, where feasible;
- ensure speedy transfer of information between individuals and other relevant

agencies and to a new school if and when the child transfers;
- seek urgent meetings with relevant parties where the child is experiencing difficulties and/or is in danger of being excluded.
- ensure that any returns on Children Looked After (CLA) and C PLA are completed – as requested by the Local Authority

Roles and responsibilities of all staff

- ensure that any child in public care is supported sensitively and that confidentiality is maintained;
- be familiar with the and respond appropriately to requests for information to support the completion of PEPs and other documentation needed as part of review meetings;
- respond positively to a child in public care's request to be the named person that they can talk to when they feel it is necessary;
- contribute to the Designated Teacher's requests for information on educational attainment and needs, as appropriate;
- as with all children, ensure that no child in public care is stigmatised in any way;
- provide a supportive climate to enable a child in public care to achieve stability within the school setting;
- as with all children, have high aspirations for the educational and personal achievement of Children Looked After (CLA) and CPLA
- positively promote the self-esteem of Children Looked After

(CLA) and CPLA Confidentiality

- information on Children Looked After (CLA) and C PLA will be shared with school staff on a "need to know basis"
- the Designated Teacher will discuss what information is shared with which school staff at the PEP meeting. Once this has been agreed with the social worker, carer, young person, and other parties, complete confidentiality is to be maintained.

Training

The Head Teacher or the Designated Teacher will be responsible for ensuring all staff are briefed on the regulations and practice outlined in this policy. The Designated Teacher will attend relevant training.

Monitoring & evaluation

Via the Designated Governor for Children Looked After (CLA) and C PLA, the governing body of this school will:

- appoint a Designated Governor for Children Looked After (CLA) and C PLA 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)

- ensure all governors are fully aware of the legal requirements and local and national Guidance for Children Looked After (CLA) and CPLA;

- be aware of whether the school has Children Looked After (CLA) and CPLA and how many (anonymous);

- ensure that there is a named Designated Teacher for Children Looked After (CLA) and CPLA;

- 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 (CLA) and CPLA;

- support the Head Teacher, Designated Teacher and other staff in ensuring the needs of Children Looked After (CLA) and CPLA are met;

- review the effective implementation of this policy, alongside other safeguarding policies or if new guidance or legislation is issued. This is recommended to be annually but must be at least every three years.