

# Marjory Kinnon School

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## Looked After Children Policy

February 2019

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## 1. Introduction

Schools have a major part to play in the duty to safeguard Looked After Children (LAC) ensuring that they are enabled to be healthy, stay safe, enjoy, achieve, make a positive contribution to society and achieve economic wellbeing.

Helping Looked After Children succeed and providing a better future for them is a key priority. As for all our pupils, Marjory Kinnon is committed to helping every Looked After Child to achieve the highest standards they can, including supporting aspirations to achieve in further education.

Our school's approach to supporting the educational achievement of Looked After Children is based on having high expectations, prioritising education, achieving stability and continuity, promoting attendance, health and well-being and working in partnership with carers, social workers and other professionals.

## 2. Governing Body & Headteacher Responsibilities

- Have a named Governor for Looked After Children.
- Ensure that the school has a designated person for Looked After Children.
- Ensure that the school has an overview of the needs and progress of Looked After Children.
- Monitor the academic progress of Looked After Children, through termly and annual reports.

## 3. Designated Person Responsibilities

- Be the named contact for colleagues and carers for Looked After Children and for colleagues in children's services including social services and health.
- Ensure that procedures are in place to monitor admission, progress, attendance, and any exclusions of Looked After Children and take action where these are causing concern. He/She will report on progress to the PEP meetings.
- Ensure that staff in school are aware of their responsibilities under this Policy and related guidance.
- Report on the attainment, behaviour and attendance of Looked After Children compared to other pupils to the Governing Body.

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- Be aware of the number of Looked After Children in school and clearly establish who has parental responsibility.
- Be aware that the specific needs of Looked After Children should be communicated sensitively to appropriate staff, teaching and non-teaching.
- Be aware that Looked After Children should have an up-to-date, Looked After Children Plan (PEP) initiated by the Social Worker within 14 days of joining the school or of entering care and liaise with the pupil's social worker, the school's designated Governor and other relevant outside professionals regarding the PEP.
- Liaise with other designated teachers at transition times (moving key stages or to a new school).

## 4. All Staff Responsibilities

- Have high expectations for the educational and personal achievement of Looked After Children, as for all pupils and provide information when requested by the Designated Officer.
- Have an understanding of the key issues that affect the learning of Looked After Children.
- Maintain Looked After Children's confidentiality and ensure they are supported sensitively.
- Promote the self-esteem of all Looked After Children.
- Work to enable Looked After Children to achieve stability and success within the school.

**Designated Person:** Amy Higgins

**Designated Governors:** Shahid Khan / Nadia Salam

This Policy should be read in conjunction with all other safeguarding policies and guidance.

## 5. Policy Review

**Approved by the Safeguarding Committee:** February 2019.

This Policy will be reviewed annually (or sooner if legislation changes) to assess its implementation and effectiveness.