

Rossington St Michael's C of E Primary School

LOOKED AFTER CHILD (LAC) POLICY 2025-2026



Date of Policy: September 2025

Date of Review: September 2026

1. Statement of Intent

At Rossington St Michael's C of E Primary School, we recognise that **looked after children (LAC)** face significant barriers to educational achievement and life opportunities. We are committed to promoting the **educational achievement, emotional wellbeing, and life chances** of all LAC through providing **stability, safety, continuity, and individual care**.

We aim to:

- Encourage each child to reach their full potential and make strong progress from their starting points.
 - Ensure all pupils access high-quality teaching and a broad, balanced, and inclusive curriculum.
 - Use resources efficiently to meet the specific needs of LAC.
 - Promote a nurturing and positive school environment.
 - Foster pupils' cultural, moral, and social development.
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2. Legal Framework

This policy is underpinned by the following legislation and guidance:

- *Children Act 1989*
- *Children (Leaving Care) Act 2000*
- *Children and Young Persons Act 2008*
- *Care Planning, Placement and Case Review (England) Regulations 2010*
- *Children and Families Act 2014*
- *Statutory Guidance on the Role of the Designated Teacher for Looked After Children (DfE, 2018)*

This policy is to be read in conjunction with:

- Admissions Policy
- Behaviour Policy
- Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy
- Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Policy
- Equality and Diversity Policy

- Anti-Bullying Policy
 - Home-School Agreement
 - Code of Conduct
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3. Definition of Looked After Children

For the purpose of this policy, a “looked after child” is defined as a child who is:

- Subject to a **Care Order or Interim Care Order** under Section 31 or 38 of the *Children Act 1989*.
 - Accommodated by the Local Authority (LA) under Section 20 of the *Children Act 1989* through voluntary agreement.
 - Living in foster care, children’s residential homes, with family members, in semi-independent accommodation, or under supervision orders.
 - Placed with a parent but subject to a Care or Interim Care Order (still considered looked after due to LA parental responsibility).
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4. Personal Education Plans (PEPs)

- All LAC must have a current **Personal Education Plan (PEP)**, which supports the child’s academic and personal development.
- Doncaster LA uses an electronic PEP system (**ePEP**) overseen by the Virtual School.
- The PEP is a collaborative, evolving document involving the child, their carer, social worker, Virtual School representative, Designated Teacher, and other relevant staff.
- The PEP sets out short- and long-term targets, including:
 - Access to appropriate early years/nursery provision.
 - Support to catch up on lost learning.
 - Access to extended services (e.g. after-school clubs, leisure activities).
 - Support for transitions, exclusions, and moves between schools.
 - Careers guidance and aspiration development.
- The PEP will be reviewed regularly, in line with the child’s statutory care review cycle.

5. The Designated Teacher

Under the *Children and Young Persons Act 2008*, all schools must appoint a Designated Teacher for LAC.

At Rossington St Michael's CE Primary School, the **Designated Teacher is Miss Jenny Birks**.

The Designated Teacher will:

- Promote a culture of high expectations and aspirations.
- Be a key advocate for LAC within the school.
- Ensure each child is supported to set and meet individual academic and personal goals.
- Lead on the development and review of PEPs.
- Advise staff on appropriate strategies to support LAC.
- Prioritise LAC for intervention and targeted support (e.g., 1:1 tuition, mentoring).
- Monitor academic progress and wellbeing, intervening early where concerns arise.
- Work in close partnership with carers, social workers, the Virtual School, and other agencies.

The **Local School Board** will ensure that the Designated Teacher has received appropriate training and submits an **annual report** on the progress and attainment of LAC.

6. Multi-Agency Communication and Collaboration

The school will:

- Share all relevant documentation with social workers, carers, and residential staff as appropriate.
 - Co-ordinate review meetings (e.g. aligning Annual Reviews of EHCPs with statutory care reviews where possible).
 - Inform partner agencies promptly of changes in circumstances, attendance concerns, or exclusions.
 - Collaborate with external professionals to support the holistic needs of each LAC.
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7. Headteacher Responsibilities

The Headteacher will:

- Ensure this policy is implemented and monitored.
 - Raise awareness among all staff that supporting LAC is a school-wide priority.
 - Fulfil the Designated Teacher role effectively, by providing time and resources.
 - Actively challenge stigma and stereotypes associated with children in care.
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8. Staff Responsibilities

All staff at Rossington St Michael's CE Primary School will:

- Be aware of who the LAC are in their class and provide appropriate pastoral and academic support.
 - Maintain the highest levels of confidentiality, sensitivity, and respect.
 - Promote self-esteem, resilience, and high expectations.
 - Remain vigilant for signs of bullying or trauma-related behaviours.
 - Report concerns promptly to the Designated Teacher and safeguarding leads.
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9. Monitoring and Review

This policy will be reviewed **annually** by the Designated Teacher, Headteacher, and LSB, and updated to reflect changes in legislation, guidance, or local practice.