



**CASTLEFIELD SCHOOL**

**LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN  
POLICY**

**2016**

Castlefield School believes it has an additional duty to safeguard and promote the education of looked after children. The School understands the powerful role it can play in significantly improving the quality of life and the educational experiences of these students.

A school ethos which promotes respect for all students, values diversity and does not tolerate bullying is a necessary foundation and Castlefield School has policies and practice embedded in a whole-school approach to meet this need.

Therefore this policy should be read alongside:

- ☐ Anti Bullying Policy
- ☐ Behaviour Discipline Policy
- ☐ E-safety Policy
- ☐ Safeguarding Policy
- ☐ SEN and Disability Policy
- ☐ Equal Opportunities Policy
- ☐ Curriculum Policies
- ☐ School Improvement Plan

There is however compelling evidence that reliance on a supportive whole-school approach is not enough on its own. Children in care may be overlooked without specific policies and practices to highlight their needs.

The educational achievement of looked after children in general remains unacceptably low. That is why the Children Act 2004 (Section 52) and other legislation including the 2014 Children and Families Act places a duty on local authorities to promote the educational achievement of these students

To ensure that Castlefield School meets the educational, social and emotional needs of looked after students the school will:

1. Designate a nominated teacher for looked after students to be an advocate for these students within school, providing an opportunity for their views to be heard and their feelings made known.
2. Maintain a current list of looked after students including contact information and change of care status and ensure the electronic data concerning looked after students is correct.
3. Closely monitor the progress and attendance of looked after student and provide suitable interventions if necessary, having regard to their personal, social and developmental needs.
4. Work in partnership with all professionals, parents and carers of looked after students.
5. Attend and contribute to LAC reviews as required.
6. Keep Governors informed in a yearly report on the achievement of children in public care so they are able to fulfil their duties to these students. To include:
  - a. The number of looked-after pupils taught at Castlefield School (if any).
  - b. Their attendance, as a discrete group, compared to other pupils.
  - c. Their end of year attainment, progress, as a discrete group, compared to other pupils if appropriate.
  - d. The destinations of LAC pupils who leave the school. The information for this report should be collected and reported in ways that preserve the anonymity and respect the confidentiality of the pupils concerned.
8. Ensure the designated teachers have training for their role and keep all staff informed on issues concerning looked after children.
9. Liaise with other schools and educational providers to facilitate the effective transfer of students.
10. Communicate high expectations and celebrate the achievements of our looked after students.

11. Work closely with the external agencies and other professionals to ensure adequate provision.

**Staff Lead:** Headteacher/Learning Mentor

**Governor:** Safeguarding Governor

### **Review of Policy and Procedures**

The Governing Body reviews this policy and the procedures on a 3 yearly basis.

**Signed (HT):**

**Date agreed: Term 3 2016**

**Signed (Chair of GB):**

**Review date: Term 3 2019**