



## CALLINGTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE (FOUNDATION SCHOOL)

# LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN POLICY

### **Background**

Looked After Children (LAC) are a vulnerable population. Coping with personal loss, trauma and identity issues, they are likely to significantly underachieve at school. LAC commonly have adverse experiences in early years, a history of traumatic experience and continuing stress in relation to contact with absent family members.

LAC can find it difficult to manage life at school for a number of reasons. They may experience many more symptoms of post traumatic stress disorder and or experience developmental impairment as a result of maltreatment in infancy.

LAC are more likely to suffer functional impairment with effects on brain development, physiological, physical, emotional and social effect. LAC are likely to have a complex set of needs which vary with each individual. The needs of LAC are subject to DCFS statutory guidance which aims to promote educational achievement.

### **Role of the designated teacher**

The designated teacher is responsible for:

- Improving the educational achievement of the Looked After Child.
- To implement, assess and monitor the impact of this policy on LAC.
- Co-ordinates child protection issues.
- Arrange assessment with SENCo if needed.
- Involvement in all admissions.
- Monitors progress and attendance.
- Determine educational and pastoral needs.
- Communicate with social worker / foster carer.
- Work with Head of Year (HoY) to co-ordinate the assessment, monitoring and review of LAC's educational needs.

## **Role of the College**

The College has excellent support structures for all students. LAC form only a part of the vulnerable population with greater needs. If any LAC has specialist needs, they will be supported by the Learning Support Unit (LSU), the Student Support Unit (SSU) or the Alternative School depending on the Personal Education Plan (PEP). The HoY will oversee the day-to-day learning needs of the LAC through regular Individual Student Interviews (ISIs) and meetings.

## **Admissions**

LAC are subject to special rules and must be admitted following instruction by Cornwall LA. Since the needs of this group are unique and likely to be complex, it is important that as much information is sought through contact with the relevant social worker, so that LAC needs can be planned for and resourced.

The PEP should be requested from the social worker and reviewed. A meeting with the foster carer and young person should be made prior to admission. If no PEP is in existence, the College will plan for the needs of the young person.

Foster carers in Cornwall have reported a desire to have extra support from schools to support their young person. The College, through the designated teacher, will be proactive in contacting and supporting foster carers on a regular basis.

## **Student Support Centre**

- Emergency port of contact for foster carers, students and social workers.
- Co-ordinates information gathering.
- Record monitoring and assessments.

## **Involving the young person**

The young person is involved in the PEP and in the review of their progress. The wishes of the young person about their status should be respected. Generally, the designated teacher and Head of Year will be aware of their status and background, so that they can best be supported on a daily basis.

Tutors and other staff working with the child should be made aware of their PEP. Where Care Reviews take place, LAC will be consulted as to whether they wish a representative of the College to attend.

Within the College, the students will be supported by other LAC as part of a peer support group facilitated by the designated teacher. The support group will allow all LAC to raise any issues concerning their educational achievement.

## **Assessment, monitoring and review**

LAC needs and learning skills will be assessed on entry as part of the PEP. If necessary, where no information is available, the Special Needs department will assess their learning skills. The LAC will be monitored informally on a regular basis in addition to the existing monitoring systems of the college. Support staff will be made aware of access to information issues.

The attendance of LAC will be reviewed more closely by Head of Year and designated teacher.