



Policy for Children Looked After
Written September 2015 – Review date September 2026

1.0 Introduction

1.1 This policy is a statement of the aims, principles, and strategies for supporting Children Looked After (CLA) and previously looked-after children at Bradford Christian School.

1.2 Bradford Christian School believes that in partnership with the local authority as **Corporate Parents**, we have a special duty to safeguard and promote the education of all children who are looked after. We believe that to achieve our school's vision statement:

"To provide a holistic Christian education for all and to inspire discipleship. And to be a Christian community in which everyone grows in character, faith, knowledge, understanding, and wisdom."

We must be especially vigilant and proactive in supporting this vulnerable group of children.

2.0 Aims

2.1 To provide a safe and secure environment where education is valued and there is a belief in the abilities and potential of all children.

2.2 To support our Children Looked After and provide them with every opportunity to achieve their potential and enjoy learning.

2.3 To fulfil our school's role as **Corporate Parents** to promote and support the education of our Children Looked After, by consistently asking the question, 'Would this be good enough for my child?'

3.0 Responsibilities

3.1 There is a **Designated Teacher for Children Looked After** (DTCLA) who will act as their advocate and co-ordinate support for them. The DTCLA works with the SENCo and together they are responsible for:

- Overseeing the school's strategy for CLA.
- Promoting a whole-school culture of high expectations for CLA.
- Ensuring all staff understand their role in supporting CLA.
- Working with social workers and other professionals to ensure effective support.

3.2 There is a designated Governor for Children Looked After. They will ensure that:

- The school has a coherent policy for Children Looked After and it is regularly reviewed.
- The school's policies and procedures are reviewed in the light of statutory guidance.
- Children Looked After have equal access to all areas of the curriculum and extra-curricular activities.

4.0 Definitions

4.1 Children Looked After (CLA): This term refers to a child who is in the care of a local authority or provided with accommodation by a local authority for more than 24 hours. This includes children living with foster carers, in a residential unit, in a residential school, or with parents on a part-time basis.

4.2 Previously Looked-After Children (PLAC): This term refers to children who are no longer looked after by a local authority in England and Wales because they have been:

- Adopted.
- Subject to a child arrangements order.
- Subject to a special guardianship order.

4.3 The school recognizes that both **CLA** and **PLAC** may have underlying needs due to their life experiences prior to or during being looked after. These children may require additional support, and their backgrounds will be handled with the utmost sensitivity and confidentiality.

5.0 Objectives

5.1 We will ensure that all our Children Looked After and previously looked-after children receive the same care and attention as our other pupils, and in addition we will:

5.2 Work alongside social workers to ensure that each looked-after child has a current, high-quality **Personal Education Plan (PEP)** in place.

5.3 Provide a climate of acceptance and challenge negative stereotypes.

5.4 Ensure all CLA and PLAC have the same opportunities to participate fully in the curriculum, careers guidance, extra-curricular activities, work experience, and fully enjoy the school experience in line with the principles of corporate parenting.

5.5 Ensure discretion and strict confidentiality when addressing a child's care status. We will ensure there is sensitivity to the background of all CLA and PLAC, especially surrounding work on families and life history.

5.6 Ensure that a clear protocol for sharing information is followed both within school and with outside agencies, with the child's best interests and confidentiality as the priority.

5.7 Endeavour to support all Children Looked After and previously looked-after children to achieve their fullest possible academic potential.

5.8 The school acknowledges that PLAC, like CLA, may have underlying needs that staff should be aware of. The school will utilize a **Pupil Passport** or similar document for these children where appropriate, to inform staff of their needs and recommended support strategies.

6.0 Personal Education Plans (PEPs)

6.1 A high-quality **PEP** is a vital part of a CLA's care plan and is a statutory requirement. It is a living document that sets out how the school, carers, and local authority will work together to meet the child's educational needs.

6.2 The school's role is crucial in the development and review of the PEP. The DTCLA will work closely with the social worker to ensure the PEP:

- Is a strengths-based document.
- Is initiated within 20 school days of a child joining the school.

- Is regularly reviewed (at least every term).
- Reflects the child's voice and aspirations.
- Identifies specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, and time-bound (SMART) targets for the child.
- Considers the child's academic and pastoral needs, including their mental and physical health.
- Addresses any special educational needs or disabilities.
- Outlines how Pupil Premium funding for looked-after children will be used to support them.

7.0 Review

7.1 This policy was first written in September 2015 and is reviewed annually. This latest version was reviewed in **September 2025**. Senior Leadership and the Governing Body have been involved in agreeing and ratifying this policy.

7.2 This policy should be read in conjunction with the following school policies:

- Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy
- Data Protection Policy
- Pupil Premium Policy

7.3 In writing this version of the policy, the following have been referenced:

- 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' (KCSiE 2025)
- 'Working Together to Safeguard Children' (2023)
- Children Act 1989
- The Children and Social Work Act 2017

Version Control

Date of Adoption of this Policy	13 October 2025
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