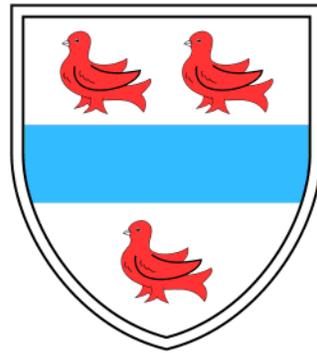


BISHOP WALSH CATHOLIC SCHOOL



‘Caring to Learn and Learning to Care’

Looked After Children (LAC) Policy

Adopted by Governors

July 2011

Bishop Walsh School - Looked After Children Policy

“Let the little children come to me; and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the Kingdom of God belongs.” Mark 10:14

A Looked After Child (LAC) means a child or young person under the age of 18 who is provided by a local authority, acting in it’s social service capacity, with accommodation provided for a continuous period of more than twenty four hours. This would be agreed with the parents – section 20 of the Children’s Act or a child would be subject to a relevant court order under part 1V of the Children’s Act 1989 – Section 31 - As a result of a care order the court being satisfied that the child has suffered or is at the risk of suffering significant harm.

- 1. In line with Birmingham’s Children’s Services, Bishop Walsh School supports the Council’s commitment towards securing a first class education service and promotes inclusion and equality for our Looked after Children.**
- 2. We recognize that Looked after Children:**
 - nationally experience educational under – achievement.**
 - deserve the same life chances as any other child – to be healthy, stay safe, enjoy and achieve, make a positive contribution to society and achieve economic well – being.**
 - need good corporate parenting in order to realize their potential and improve their life chances.**
- 3. We are committed to providing educational life chances for Looked after Children and to ensuring that they access the five outcomes as set out in the Every Child Matters Agenda.**
- 4. We will ensure that:**
 - We participate in discussion, decision making, the planning of a Personal Education Plan (PEP) and a review of LAC progress, ensuring that regular attendance is maintained and that the recommendations of the Children Act 2004 and the current guidance stipulated by the DfES are followed.**

- The school works in partnership with the allocated Social Worker to ensure that each Looked after Child is monitored and the PEP reviewed regularly.
- Our designated teacher works to promote and sustain the educational achievement and welfare of LAC in our school.
- PEA (Personal Education Allowance) money is directed at providing LAC pupils with extra support in whichever area is most important to them to achieve. Academically this has been to provide 1:1 work with the pupil in preparation for exams.
- Staff are aware of how being looked after may impact on the social, emotional and educational development of a young person. At all times we will maintain a holistic view and be aware of issues that affect their education, good behaviour and self image.
- The Designated teacher for LAC monitors the progress of students who are Looked after in order that key problems, challenges and successes are evident and used to inform school planning, development and interventions.
- An annual report to governors on the progress of LAC children will take place either through a meeting with the link governor or at a full governors meeting.
- We work jointly with Birmingham's agencies (and those of other boroughs as appropriate) to support and enable Looked after Children to access a broad and balanced curriculum to suit their individual needs and out of school hours learning whenever relevant as we recognize the positive impact this has on their self – esteem and learning.
- We foster good partnerships and encourage joint working with parents / carers, social workers, health workers and other professionals in order to secure a successful schooling experience.
- We share and transfer information and data speedily to relevant agencies and individuals.

- We develop our knowledge and attend training related to the needs of the Looked after Child and work closely with Birmingham's Corporate Parenting Team who are responsible for monitoring the educational and health outcomes of the Looked after Child.

5. Key persons and agency

Name of our designated teacher for Looked After Children:

Miss Belinda Dunphy – Assistant Head Teacher i.c Inclusion

Name of school Governor with special responsibility for Looked after

Children : ***Mr Peter McCann – School Governor***

This policy must read in conjunction with:

The Behaviour Policy

Equality Policy

Date April 2011