



LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN POLICY

The River School is a Christian community and we are committed to ensuring that all members of that community feel valued and accepted. It is recognised that children in residential and foster care are a vulnerable group, requiring support that recognises their particular needs. We are committed to providing all students equality of access to the educational provision of the school. With regard to Looked After Children, we are also committed to acting on any advice from outside agencies/support services. The school will ensure that there is a Designated Teacher, that each Looked After Child has support that is appropriate to their needs, and that all members of staff are equipped to effectively carry out their responsibilities.

THE DESIGNATED TEACHER WILL:

- Act as an advocate for Looked After Children.
- Support the child and carer with transitions.
- Ensure that support needs are considered and catered for, however is appropriate for the individual pupil, e.g. special educational needs.
- Ensure that members of staff are fully aware of the needs of Looked After Children and have the information/resources/training that they require in order to meet those needs.
- Liaise with outside agencies and carers, as appropriate, including arranging any necessary assessments.
- Ensure that there are regular reviews of the progress/needs of Looked After Children and that all relevant parties are invited to review meetings. This will include the Designated Teacher attending reviews that are organised by the pupil's social worker and the Independent Reviewing Officer.
- Liaise with Virtual School.
- Ensure that the pastoral needs of Looked After Children are being met, usually by the form tutor or designated mentor.
- Encourage Looked After Children to play a full part in the life of the school.
- Ensure that there is early intervention when a child is experiencing difficulties, involving all relevant parties.

MEMBERS OF STAFF WILL:

Ensure that they support Looked After Children sensitively and maintain confidentiality.

- Contribute to review meetings, or provide other information, when requested. □
Differentiate/plan work that is appropriate to the needs of the child.

DESIGNATED TEACHER:

Ms Julie Chester, Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator