

Statement of Provision for Looked After Children

Rationale

Thomas Deacon Academy understands the powerful role it can play in significantly improving the quality of life and the educational experiences of students who are looked after. There is compelling evidence that reliance on a supportive whole-school approach is not enough on its own. Looked after children (LAC) 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) places a duty on local authorities and schools to promote the educational achievement of these students.

Statement of provision

To ensure that Thomas Deacon Academy meets the educational, social and emotional needs of looked after children the academy will:

1. Designate a nominated teacher for looked after students, reporting to the designated safeguarding lead, to promote the educational achievement of children who are looked after.
2. The designated teacher will be an advocate for looked after children within the academy, providing an opportunity for their views to be heard and their feelings made known.
3. Maintain a current list of looked after students including contact information and change of care status ensuring the electronic data concerning looked after children is correct.
4. Closely monitor the progress and attendance of looked after students and provide suitable interventions as and when necessary.
5. Ensure each looked after child has a Personal Education Plan (PEP) that reflects the student's achievements and targets.
6. Work in partnership with all professionals, parents and carers of looked after students.
7. Attend and contribute to LAC reviews as required.
8. The designated teacher will update the Board of Directors in a yearly report on the achievement of looked after children so they are able to fulfil their duties to these students. To include:
 - a. The number of looked-after pupils on the academy's roll (if any).
 - b. Their attendance, as a discrete group, compared to other students.
 - c. Their end of year attainment, levels, grades, GCSE results, and other qualifications achieved, as a discrete group, compared to other students.
 - d. The number of fixed term and permanent exclusions (if any) for LAC students.
 - e. The destinations of LAC pupils who leave the school.
 - f. The information for this report should be collected and reported in ways that preserve the anonymity and respect the confidentiality of the students concerned.
9. Ensure top priority for looked after children in the academy's admission policy (Section 106 of the Education Act 2005)
10. Seek to address behavioural issues for looked after children to avoid exclusion.
11. Ensure the designated teacher has training for their role and keeps all staff informed on issues concerning looked after children.
12. Liaise with other academies, schools and educational providers to facilitate the effective transfer of students, recognising that for some looked after children a change of care placement will result in school transfer during the school year.
13. Communicate high expectations and celebrate the achievements of our LAC students.
14. Work closely with the Local Authority LAC Team to ensure adequate provision.

Designated Teacher for Looked After Children: Miss Emma Grimwood

Designated Safeguarding Lead: Mrs Katie Rushton