



Bracken Hill School Looked After Children and Previously Looked After Children Policy

Author: Mr Jackson

Policy Type: Whole School

This policy is reviewed biennially to ensure compliance with current regulations

The Governors of the school recognise that all staff play a vital role in the achievement of high standards and in providing our pupils with the best opportunities matched to their needs.

Guiding Principles

At Bracken Hill School we strive to provide a safe, secure, caring environment where everyone is valued and respected equally. We aim to provide an inclusive education where children develop independent learning skills and are taught according to need whatever their age, gender, background, beliefs or abilities. National legislation regarding disabilities, special education needs, equality, race relations and related aspects underpin this policy which also reflects other national, local and in-house policies and guidance.

Bracken Hill aims to maximise opportunity for every pupil to succeed. Children and young people who are looked after by local authorities or have been looked after by the local authority are one of the groups most likely to underachieve nationally. The school is committed to supporting looked after pupils to achieve their full potential alongside other pupils, to enjoy their learning and to experience success in school.

Definition of “Looked After Children and Previously Look After Children”

In UK law children in care are referred to as ‘looked after children’, A child is ‘looked after’ if they are in the care of the local authority for more than 24 hours. Legally, this could be when they are:

- Living in accommodation provided by the local authority with the parents’ agreement.
- The subject of an interim or full care order or in Scotland, a permanence order.
- The subject of an emergency legal order to remove them from immediate danger.
- In a secure children’s home, secure training centre or young offender institution.
- Unaccompanied asylum-seeking children.

A previously looked-after child is one who is no longer looked after in England and Wales because they are the subject of an adoption, special guardianship or child arrangement order which includes arrangements relating to with whom the child is to live, or when the child is to live with any person, or has been adopted from ‘state care’ outside England and Wales.

Aims

- To work together with the Local Authority, Children with a Disability Team, Foster Carers, Medical and Nursing Services, Therapy Services and all other stakeholders in an effective partnership to ensure that children’s’ needs are met.
- To contribute to the provision of a successful and integrated service for children who are looked after by the local authority.

- To ensure that children who are looked after have equality of opportunity in school, enabling them to access, experience and benefit from education in the normal way alongside peers and respecting their right anonymity if this is their wish.
- To comply with the LA guidelines on the education and care of looked after children and young people.

To ensure these aims are achieved Bracken Hill will:

- Have a Designated Teacher to co-ordinate the education of looked after children, to ensure that staff in the school are aware of any looked after children, know each carer and understand individual circumstances including parental rights and access – currently **Richard Jackson**.
- Liaise effectively with other agencies involved with the child and attend review meetings.
- Work in partnership with carers, parents and others with parental responsibility to ensure that looked after children receive their full entitlements including provision and access to school news and information.
- Ensure that all records are kept and maintained appropriately, including outcomes of looked after child review meetings and PEPs.
- Provide information to the Governing Body and LA about the progress and outcomes of looked after pupils on the school roll.
- Secure training for the designated teacher or others appropriate to ensure that the school can meet the needs of looked after children.
- The designated teacher will meet regularly with staff who have a looked after child or previously looked after child in their class to ensure needs are met.
- Apply for and monitor the impact of the Pupil Premium Plus grant that looked after children are entitled to.
- Report progress and concerns to the Virtual Schools in line with timelines for each council.

The Governing Body will fulfil their responsibilities to ‘Looked After Children’ through:

- Ensuring that this policy is implemented.
- Nominating a governor to maintain interest in the well-being of looked after children: **Andy Machalski**
- Ensuring that the governors take up suitable training opportunities.
- Monitoring appropriate training for school staff.

This policy will be reviewed biennially – Next review September 2025