



## **BISHOP MILNER CATHOLIC COLLEGE**

### **Education of Looked After Children**

“Behold, children are a heritage from the LORD, the fruit of the womb a reward. Like arrows in the hand of a warrior are the children of one’s youth.”

**2 Timothy 3:14-15 Holy Bible ESV**

**Approved by Representatives: September 2020**

**Policy Review Date: September 2021**

Bishop Milner Catholic College believes that as Corporate Parents, we have a special duty to safeguard and promote the education of Looked After Children. These are children who are looked after by a Local Authority. This policy has been produced to take account of the Dudley Safeguarding

People Partnership Board strategy, Dudley Virtual College for LAC, similar strategies and virtual colleges for other Local Authorities who oversee the education of students in our college and National Government Strategies for LAC.

As with all children, the college is committed to helping every Looked After Child to achieve the highest standards they can and support their aspirations and ambitions.

This policy links with other college policies including:

- Admissions Policy
- Safeguarding Policy

#### **AIM**

- To provide a safe and secure environment, which values education and believes in and promotes the abilities and potential of all children.
- To bring the educational attainments for our Looked After Children nearer to those of their peers.
- Identifying our college's role as corporate parents to promote and support the education of our Looked After Children. Asking the question, "Would this be good enough for my child?"

#### **In pursuit of this policy we will:**

- Nominate a Senior Leader as Designated Teacher for Looked After Children who will:
  1. Act as their advocate and co-ordinate support for the college's LAC
  2. Liaise with the appropriate local authority LACES teams to ensure every child is receiving 25 hours of education per week, and to ensure additional support is available if required
  3. Ensure the college's compliance with the Local Authorities' Strategies and National Government Agenda for the Education of Looked After Children

#### **The Designated Teacher will:**

- Maintain a register/database of all Looked After Children in the college. This will include a record of:
  1. The name of the Social Worker, area office and contact details
  2. Status i.e. care order or accommodated
  3. Type of placement e.g. foster, respite, residential
  4. Name of the contact person in the LACES team and telephone number
  5. Daily contact and telephone numbers where appropriate e.g. name of young person, name of parent or carer or key worker in children's home
  6. Share Child Protection/disability information which could be shared, if appropriate.
  7. Their academic progress

- Organise and chair PEP meetings in liaison with the student's local authority.
- Ensure that there is a current Personal Education Plan (PEP) for each child to include appropriate targets. This must be compatible with the child's Children's Services Care Plan and form part of any other college plan e.g. Statement, Transition Plan, Pastoral Support Programme. It should be reviewed through a PEP review meeting.
- Liaise with Children's Services so that reviews on each child are attended, if necessary or are supported by a written report that promotes the continuity and stability of their education.
- Ensure that should a Looked After Child be identified as at risk of exclusion, then contact is made with the LA Inclusion Officer and the named contact in the Virtual College (Looked After Children's Education Support Team – LACES) immediately, to enable early intervention/preventative strategies to be instigated.
- Ensure that they participate in joint training when this is offered.
- Ensure that on admission or transfer all relevant information is requested at the outset.
- Ensure that systems are in place to identify and prioritise when Looked After Children are underachieving and early intervention strategies are put in place, and that the named contact in the Virtual School (LACES) team is informed
- Refer any attendance concerns to the local authority Virtual School (LACES), Education Welfare/Liaison Officer, and supply attendance data as required.
- Ensure that systems are in place to keep staff up to date and informed about Looked After Children.
- Ensure that Looked After Children are listened to and have access to support and counselling in college.

**All Directors and staff will:**

- Actively support and promote the education of Looked After Children through appropriate use of Pupil Premium finances.
- Work in partnership with carers and agencies.
- Support carers to value educational achievement and improve attendance. ☒  
Celebrate the achievements of Looked After Children.

**Monitoring and Evaluation**

- The designated teacher will meet regularly with the designated Director for LAC – updating on the achievements and current status of relevant students.
- The report should include intervention strategies such as study support, mentor support, support of carers, Pastoral Support Plans, counselling support as appropriate.
- The Directors will monitor and evaluate the progress made by individuals and all the children using the same criteria used for other children in the peer group.