



## **Policy on Looked After Children**

Burnage Media Arts College is a fully inclusive school and as such the Head, Governors and staff are committed to ensuring all students are provided with a quality education matched to their individual needs, this includes Looked After Children.

We are aware of the educational disadvantages faced by Looked After Children and understand the need for positive systems of support to overcome them. In order to achieve the best support for Looked After Children at Burnage Media Arts College has a nominated member of staff (Welfare & Inclusion Mentor) with responsibility and time allowance to monitor and support the academic performance and emotional needs of Looked After Children and to work closely with the staff that teach the students, their carers and to liaise with other agencies.

### **Academic Progress and Performance**

LAC students' academic performance is monitored and reviewed using the systems in place in school for all students. In addition to this personal education plan (PEP) is agreed and updated with students on a six monthly basis. The updated PEP, which has targets for both academic and social progress in school, is presented at the students six monthly LAC review.

If differentiated support is required for Lac students there is a range of support available. The nominated members of staff liaise closely with the school SENCO, Heads of Faculty, Heads of House and Coordinators for alternative education provision in order to meet the individual needs of students.

The school operates a transition programme that aims to empower and involve LAC students making the move from KS2 to KS3. This includes working closely with carers and primary school staff, group work involving KS3 peers mentors and KS2 students in primary schools and visits to school to meet key staff.

Extra tuition is available to LAC students in KS4, offering support with coursework, study skills and preparation for GCSE exams.

### **Pastoral Support and Welfare**

As well as the transition from KS2 to KS3, LAC students often experience transition between carers and significant adults or institutions in their lives. This may involve changes of school. The school addresses the impact of these changes on the students through a range of pastoral strategies.

All LAC students are attached to the Welfare & Inclusion mentor team and receive mentor support, both individually and in groups.

LAC students are supported and encouraged to take part in extra curricular activities, school trips and residential. This is seen as vital in supporting their social development and opportunities for attachment and belonging.

LAC students are prioritised when choosing groups for special projects under the Health Schools initiative.

Attendance of LAC students is regularly monitored. Any issues with regard to absence from school or particular lessons are addressed through the nominated person for LAC students working in partnership with carers, Head of House and the school's attendance team.

### **Working with Staff**

Subject staff are informed when they have a LAC student in their teaching group and are given necessary and relevant information by the nominated person.

Subject staff are required to give regular updates on LAC students to the nominated person. These are in addition to the report and review processes in place for all students in school.

### **Working with Carers**

The nominated person is in regular contact with all carers, providing information on the students progress and feeding back positive comments from staff. This system is also used to address any concerns raised by the students, carers to the school staff.

The nominated person contacts carers in advance of school events such as parent consultation evenings and open days.

### **Working with other Agencies**

The nominated person ensures that relevant information is shared with agencies as required.

The nominated person is in regular contact with all linked agencies, providing information on the students progress and feeding back positive comments from staff. This system is also used to address any concerns raised by the student, carers or school staff.