



Children Looked After and Previously Looked After Policy

Designated Governor for Children Looked After and Previously Looked After: Jon Byatt
Designated Teacher: SENCO

Statement of Intent

Tor Bridge High aims to provide an integrated, comprehensive curriculum in an environment where the whole learning experience is one of achievement through caring in partnership with Plymouth Local Authority and other statutory authorities.

Rationale

Many Looked After children have suffered disrupted learning and may have missed extended periods of school. The gaps in their learning - and in many cases the emotional impact of their experiences - are likely to have become significant barriers to their progress. The complexity of this fragmented educational experience needs careful assessment and planning. Excellent practice in supporting Looked After students already exists in many schools. Making the designated teacher role statutory is intended to help ensure that effective practice becomes universal. 1.2 Section 20 of the Children and Young Persons Act 2008 (“the 2008 Act”) places a duty on the Governing Body of maintained schools to designate a member of staff (the ‘designated teacher’) as having responsibility to promote the educational achievement of Looked After students who are registered students at the school. This includes those aged between 16 and 18. ¹

Tor Bridge High will seek to provide a constant, secure factor in the young person’s life enabling them to reach their full potential.

The role of the Governing Body

The designated teacher is given high levels of support in order to fulfil their role. The Governing Body, in partnership with the Headteacher, ensure that, through their training and development, the designated teacher has the opportunity to acquire and keep up-to-date the necessary skills, knowledge and training to understand and respond to the specific teaching and learning needs of Looked After students.

The Governing Body and the school leadership team also make sure that the designated teacher role contributes to the deeper understanding of everyone in the school who is likely to be involved in supporting Looked After students to achieve.

The Governing Body ensures that the designated teacher is a qualified member of the teaching staff who has satisfactorily completed their induction period and is working as a teacher at the school.

¹ Statutory Guidance *The role and responsibilities of the designated teacher for looked after children* (2009)

The role of the designated teacher:

The designated teacher will ensure that:

Everyone involved in supporting Looked After students to achieve should:

- have high expectations of Looked After students' involvement in learning and educational progress;
- be aware of the emotional, psychological and social effects of loss and separation from birth families, the reasons for that separation and that some children may find it difficult to build relationships of trust with adults because of their experiences;
- understand the reasons which may be behind a Looked After student's behaviour, and why they may need more support than other children albeit not allowing this to be an excuse for lowering expectations of what a child is capable of achieving;
- understand how important it is to see Looked After students as individuals rather than as a homogeneous group;

And particularly to their role, ensure that:

- the school has a clear overview of the educational needs and progress of Looked After students on roll;
- the school's policies are effective in reflecting the needs of Looked after Children;
- report to the Governing Body annually about the levels of progress achieved, attendance, social and emotional progress, destinations, interventions and specific student tracking, whether the pattern of attendance and exclusions for Looked After students is different to that of all children; any process or planning issues arising from Personal Education Plans (PEPs); whether any are identified as gifted and talented and how those needs are being met; whether any have special educational needs (SEN) and whether those needs are being met;
- work closely with the Local Authority and the Virtual School;
- ensure that all data is termly uploaded to the Devon e-PEP (online central record for the Virtual School students), as well as electronic PEPs;
- the appropriate Pupil Premium Grant monies are employed suitably and in order to fulfil the objectives set out in the Personal Education Plans;
- Comply with the GDPR polices at all times.

Securing school stability for Looked After students is an integral part of what needs to happen in order to narrow the gap between what they achieve compared to other children. Tor Bridge High is very active in promoting strong working links and cooperation between the school and local authority, as well as the child's carers and whoever else is involved in providing support the greater the chances are of keeping the child's education on track. The designated teacher should, however, make sure that the ways in which the school works with others outside of the school maximise the stability of education.

This policy should be read in conjunction with:

Keeping children safe in Education- September 2019

Promoting the education of looked-after-children- July 2018

Working together to safeguard children- March 2018

Safeguarding and Child Protection policy

Confidentiality policy

Tor Bridge High Inclusion policy

Tor Bridge High SEND Information Report

GDPR Policy requirements

STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

2009 No. 1538 CHILDREN AND YOUNG PERSONS, ENGLAND

The Designated Teacher (Looked After Pupils etc)(England) Regulations 2009

Made 19th June 2009 Laid before Parliament 26th June 2009 Coming into force - - 1st September 2009

The Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families makes the following Regulations in exercise of the powers conferred by section 20(3) of the Children and Young Persons Act 2008 (1):

Citation and commencement

1. These Regulations may be cited as The Designated Teacher (Looked After Pupils etc) (England) Regulations 2009 and come into force on 1st September 2009.

Interpretation

2. In these Regulations, “designated teacher” means the member of staff at a maintained school (2) who has been designated by the Governing Body for the purposes of section 20(1) of the Children and Young Persons Act 2008 (“the 2008 Act”).

Prescribed qualifications and experience of designated person

3. (1) The Governing Body must ensure that the designated teacher meets each of the requirements in one of paragraphs (2), (3) or (4).

(2) The requirements in this paragraph are that the designated teacher—

(a) is a qualified teacher within the meaning of section 132 of the Education Act 2002(3) (“the 2002 Act”);

(b) if required to complete an induction period under regulations made under section 19 of the Teaching and Higher Education Act 1998(4), has satisfactorily completed such an induction period; and

(c) is working as a teacher at the school.

(3) The requirements in this paragraph are that the designated teacher—

(a) is the head teacher or acting head teacher of the school; and

(d) 2008 c.23 (“the 2008 Act”). Section 20(3) confers the power to make regulations on the appropriate national authority and

(e) section 20(7)(a) of the 2008 Act provides that the “appropriate national authority” in relation to a Governing Body of a maintained school in England is the Secretary of State.

(f) “maintained school” has the same meaning as in Chapter 1 of Part 3 of the Education Act 2002 c.32 (see section 20(7) of the Act). (c) 2002 c.32.

(g) (d) 1998 c.30. See the Education (Induction Arrangements for School Teachers)(England) Regulations SI 2008/657.

(h) meets the requirements of regulations made under section 135 of the 2002 Act(5), if required to do so.

(4) The requirements in this paragraph are that—

(a) the designated teacher is working at the school;

(b) the designated teacher has had responsibility for promoting the educational achievement of looked after pupils for a period of at least six months ending on 1st September 2009; and

(c) the Governing Body is satisfied that the designated teacher is —

- (i) taking steps to meet the requirements in paragraph (2)(a) and, if applicable, the requirements in paragraph (2)(b); and
 - (ii) is likely to meet those requirements by 1st September 2012.
- (5) In paragraph (4), “looked after pupils” means children who are registered pupils(6) at the school and who are looked after by a local authority within the meaning of section 20(5), or who fall within section 20(6), of the 2008 Act.

Delyth Morgan

Parliamentary Under Secretary of State 19th June 2009 Department for Children, Schools and Families

- (a) Regulations made under this section are the Education (Head Teachers’ Qualifications)(England) Regulations SI 2003/3111 as amended by SI 2005/875 and SI 2005/3322.
- (b) “registered pupil” has the same meaning as in the Education Act 1996
- (c.56) (see section 20(7) of the 2008 Act).

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note is not part of the Regulations)

These Regulations are the first to be made under section 20(3) of the Children and Young Persons Act 2008 (“the 2008 Act”) and apply in relation to maintained schools in England.

Under section 20 of the 2008 Act, Governing Bodies of maintained schools must designate a member of the staff at the school as having responsibility for promoting the educational achievement of registered pupils at the school who are being looked after by a local authority; or who are care leavers (that is, relevant children or former relevant children within the meaning of sections 23A or 23C of the Children Act 1989); and those who have equivalent status under the law of Scotland or Northern Ireland (“looked after pupils”). The Regulations provide that Governing Bodies must ensure that person (referred to as “the designated teacher”) has the prescribed qualifications and/or experience.

The designated teacher must be -

- (i) a qualified teacher who has completed the appropriate induction period (if required) and is working as a teacher at the school (regulation 3(2));
- (ii) the head teacher or the acting head teacher of the school (regulation 3(3));
- or (iii) a person who has been doing the job of the designated teacher for six months immediately before the regulations came into force and who is training to be a teacher and likely to qualify before 1st September 2012.

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