

BROOKLAND INFANT AND NURSERY AND JUNIOR SCHOOLS LOOKED AFTER CHILD and PREVIOUSLY LOOKED AFTER CHILD POLICY



Barnet Council recognises the need for good corporate parenting in order to realise its educational principles and improve the life chances of its Looked After Children (LAC).

1. In line with Barnet's Children's Service, Brookland Infant and Nursery and Junior School support the Council's commitment towards securing a first class education service and promote inclusion and equality for our LAC.

Legal framework

This policy has due regard to legislation and statutory guidance, including, but not limited to, the following:

- Children Act 1989
- The Care Planning, Placement and Case Review (England) Regulations 2010
- Children (Leaving Care) Act 2000
- Children and Young Persons Act 2008
- Children and Families Act 2014
- Children and Social Work Act 2017
- DfE (2018) 'Promoting the education of looked-after children and previously looked-after children'
- DfE (2018) 'The designated teacher for looked-after and previously looked-after children'
- DfE (2022) 'Suspension and permanent exclusion from maintained schools, academies and pupil referral units in England, including pupil movement'
- DfE (latest version) 'Keeping children safe in education'
- DfE (2018) 'Working Together to Safeguard Children'

2. We recognise that LAC:

- nationally experience educational underachievement and that they
- deserve the same life chances as any other child – to be healthy, stay safe, enjoy and achieve, make a positive contribution to society and achieve economic well-being.
- need good corporate parenting in order to realise their potential and improve their life chances
- are more vulnerable to mental health, wellbeing, bullying and safeguarding risks

3. We are committed to ensuring improved educational life chances for Children In Care/ Looked after children and are proud of our record for this pupil group. This policy sets our practice regarding our work, involvement with other agencies and monitoring and review arrangements.

4. We will ensure that:

- our Designated Teacher and Governor with special responsibility for LAC work together to promote the educational achievement and welfare of Children In Care, children previously in care and children with a social worker in our school. The Headteacher will provide information to staff and relevant families about the roles and responsibility of these two positions.
- staff are aware of the learning, social and emotional impact on children of being looked after, the DfE statutory Guidance and the duty on Local Authorities to promote the education of LAC.
- at all times we will maintain a holistic view, involve the child and take account of their view in issues that affect their education, good behaviour, wellbeing and self image.
- we monitor the progress of our students who are in care, previously in care or with a social worker in order that key problems, challenges and successes are evident and used to inform school planning, development and interventions.
- we work jointly with Barnet's agencies in particular the Virtual School for Barnet's Looked After, Previously Looked After Children and those with a social worker to support and enable children in care to access a broad and balanced curriculum to suit their individual needs and out of school hours learning whenever relevant as we recognise the positive impact this has on their self-esteem and learning.
- we foster good partnerships and encourage joint working with parents/carers, social workers, health workers and other professionals in order to secure a successful schooling experience. We expect all our staff to support and champion these pupils.
- we participate in discussion, decision making and PEP planning and in reviewing the progress of our children in care, previously in care and with a social worker ensuring that regular attendance is maintained and that the recommendations of the Children Act 2004 and the current guidance stipulated by the DfE and Barnet Virtual School are followed.
- we share and transfer information and data in line with our GDPR data protection policy and with speed to relevant agencies and individuals.
- we develop our knowledge and attend training related to the needs of Children In Care and work closely with Barnet's Virtual School for Barnet's Looked After and Previously Looked After Children who are responsible for monitoring the educational and health outcomes of Children In Care. All staff take part in attachment aware training.

5. Key Persons and Agencies

Name of Designated Teachers responsible for Children In Care:

Brookland Junior School: Simon Greenhouse - Wellbeing Leader

Brookland Nursery and Infant School: Alison Gross Inclusion Leader

Name of our School Governor with special responsibility for Children In Care: Kate Blumhof
Head of Virtual School in Barnet: Julie Locke

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Barnet Integrated Services

<https://www.barnet.gov.uk/children-and-families/support-parents-and-carers/bics-supporting-children-and-young-peoples>

- email BICS@barnet.gov.uk for general enquiries
- call our support line on 020 8359 3130 (Monday to Friday from 9am to 5pm)