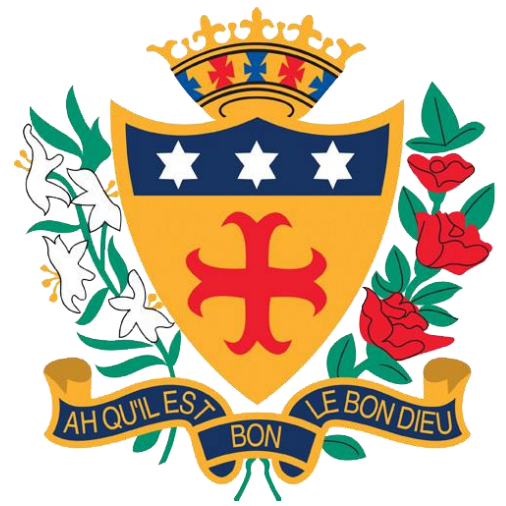


Notre Dame Catholic College

180 Great Homer St,
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Looked after Children / Previously Looked After Policy

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Opening Hearts, Minds and Doors

Looked after Children / Previously Looked After Policy

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Why we have this Policy

Inspired by the spirit of St Julie Billiart and supported by the Sisters of Notre Dame, the staff of Notre Dame Catholic College seek to work in partnership with carers and all relevant outside agencies in order to enable all of our pupils, including those who are looked after or **previously looked after** to reach their full potential and thus make a full and responsible contribution to society. **Governors and staff recognise the need to champion performance, for looked after children (LAC), and previously looked after (PLAC) and are committed to improving outcomes for all.**

Under the Children Act 1989, a child is looked after by a Local Authority if he or she is in their care or provided with accommodation for more than 24 hours by the authority. They fall into four main groups:

- Children who are accommodated under a voluntary agreement with their parents (section 20).
- Children who are the subject of a care order (section 31) or interim care order (section 38).
- Children who are the subjects of emergency orders for their protection (sections 44 and 46).
- Children who are compulsorily accommodated this includes children remanded to the local authority or subject to a criminal justice supervision order with a residence requirement (section 21).

The term 'in care' refers only to children who are subject to a care order by the courts under section 31 of the Children Act 1989 – they may live with foster carers, in a children's home, in a residential school, with relatives or with parents under supervision. Children who are cared for on a voluntary basis are accommodated by the Local Authority under section 20 of the Children Act – they may live in foster care, in a children's home or in a residential school. All these groups are said to be 'Looked After Children' – LAC. They may be looked after by our Local Authority or may be in the care of another authority but living in ours.

Previously looked-after children are those who:

are no longer looked after by a local authority in England and Wales (as defined by the Children Act 1989 or Part 6 of the Social Services

An 'eligible' child is a child who is looked-after, aged 16 or 17 and has been looked after by a local authority for a period of 13 weeks or periods amounting in total to 13 weeks, which began after they reached 14 and ended after they reached 16. 7 being (Wales) Act 2014) because they are the subject of an adoption, special guardianship or child arrangements order; or o were adopted from 'state care' outside England and Wales.

'State care' is care provided by a public authority, a religious organisation, or any other organisation whose sole or main purpose is to benefit society.

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How does the School Respond?

- ❖ Education will be a priority for our children who are looked after (LAC) or previously looked after (PLAC).
- ❖ A Designated Teacher will have responsibility for LAC and PLAC
- ❖ A Designated Governor (Link Safeguarding Governor) will have oversight of LAC and PLAC
- ❖ Maintain confidential files in relation to each child who is looked after and share relevant information on a need to know basis with their informed consent. Files will be maintained on CPOMs.
- ❖ Ensure that there are high expectations for our children who are looked after in order to raise attainment.

- ❖ Raise awareness amongst all staff so that they can challenge the negative stereotyping that children who are looked after can encounter.
- ❖ Promote inclusion through changing attitudes and raising self-esteem.
- ❖ Work in a multi disciplinary way in order to achieve continuity and stability.
- ❖ Ensure early intervention and priority action and set challenging yet realistic targets.
- ❖ Ensure that PEPs (Personal Education Plans) are up to date for all LAC
- ❖ Designated Teacher will work with the Virtual School to manage their PP+ allocation
- ❖ Ensure that children who are taken into care have a PEP meeting arranged within the required timescale (10 days of being taken into care).
- ❖ Ensure that the necessary personnel and procedures are in place so that looked after children are able to communicate their concerns and feelings.
- ❖ Provide support and guidance for individual children who are looked after and to co-ordinate their pastoral needs where necessary.
- ❖ Convene urgent multi agency meetings if a child who is looked after is experiencing difficulties or is at risk of exclusion.
- ❖ Promote a culture in which LAC/PLA students
 - Are able to discuss their progress and be involved in setting their own targets, have their voice heard and are supported to take responsibility for their own learning
 - Are prioritised in any selection of pupils who would benefit from one to one tuition and that they have access to academic focused study support
- ❖ Ensure transition of information in a timely manner when LAC/PLAC students move schools
- ❖ Attendance staff will work closely with the Designated Teacher to identify any attendance issues for LAC/PLAC students and highlight any safeguarding concerns owing to unauthorised absences

Monitoring and Evaluation

- ❖ There is a designated teacher, Mrs Elaine Brennan, Senior Assistant Headteacher and Designated Safeguarding Officer, who is assisted by Mrs Joanna Littleboy, who will act as a resource and advocate for the children who are looked after in Notre Dame. The designated teacher and assistant Heads of year will work in partnership with other professionals to ensure that all children who are looked after are not disadvantaged.

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- ❖ There is a designated governor, Mrs Annemarie Hutton – Link Safeguarding Governor who has oversight of any issues related to the education of LAC/PLAC students
- ❖ The achievement and attainment of all children who are looked after will be monitored and tracked at regular intervals and additional intervention or support will be provided if deemed appropriate.
- ❖ Every child who is looked after in public care will have a Personal Education Plan (PEP) which ensures:
 - Access to services and support
 - Parents/carers/social workers of children who are looked after are kept fully informed of their progress and attainment
 - Contributes to stability
 - Minimises disruption and broken schooling
 - Signals particular and special needs
 - Establishes clear goals
 - Acts as a record of progress and achievement
 - Each PEP will be reviewed termly and will detail how the pupil premium for that child who is looked after has been spent
 - School representatives to attend child looked after reviews to contribute to the educational input

The PEP will be initiated by the social worker in partnership with the designated teacher, assistant head of year, parent or carer.

- ❖ Detailed information and reliable data about the educational circumstances and outcomes of the children who are looked after in Notre Dame will be kept by Mrs Elaine Brennan, (Designated Teacher). Notre Dame will share detailed information promptly in order to enable primary carers to provide the quality day to day support which good parenting provides. This will include information on attendance, admission arrangements, special educational needs, test scores and other measures of educational progress and need.

Conclusion

This policy will be reviewed annually to take account of changing needs of pupils and government legislation.

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