EDUCATION OF CHILDREN IN CARE (CIC) AND PREVIOUSLY LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN (PLAC) POLICY

Aim
This policy for the education of Children in Care (CIC) and Previously Looked After Children (PLAC) aims to:

- Set out how Bishop Heber High School supports and makes provision for children in care and previously looked after children
- Explain the roles and responsibilities of our staff in providing for children in care and previously looked after children

Contents
1. Context: Guiding Principles
2. DfE Guidance
3. Definitions
4. Roles and Responsibilities

1. Context: Guiding Principles
Bishop Heber High School is committed to providing high quality education for all its students. Staff at Bishop Heber High School understand the need to champion performance for children in care and previously looked after children and are committed to improving outcomes for them.

Children in care and previously looked after children may have suffered disrupted learning and may have missed extended periods of school. As a result, they may have gaps in their learning. In many cases the emotional impact of their experiences are likely to have become barriers to their progress. Children in care and previously looked after children may have experienced a number of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and as a result they may find it harder to trust adults and their capacity to build and maintain relationships and friendships may be impaired. This may mean that school life is a challenge for them. Bishop Heber High School is committed to supporting children in care and previously looked after children in overcoming these challenges by proving them with stability, safety and individual care and attention. These students will receive special treatment and positive discrimination.

2. DfE Guidance
This policy is informed by the following DfE guidance:

- The Designated Teacher for Looked-After and Previously Looked-After Children guidance (DfE, 2018)
- Improving the Attainment of Looked after Children in Secondary Schools Guidance (DfE, 2009)
- Promoting the Education of Looked After Children and Previously Looked After Children (DfE, 2018)

3. Definitions
Children in care (CIC) are defined as:

- Children or young people who are the subject of a Care Order or Interim Care Order under the Children Act 1989.

EDUCATION OF CHILDREN IN CARE (CIC) AND PREVIOUSLY LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN (PLAC) POLICY

- Children who are placed in foster care, children's residential homes, with relatives or friends, in semi-independent or supported independent accommodation.
- Children subject to a Care or Interim Care Order whilst placed with a parent, where the Local Authority (LA) has parental responsibility.
- Children who are not subject to an order, but are accommodated by the Local Authority under an agreement with their parents.

Previously Looked After Children (PLAC) are:

- Children who no longer looked after by a local authority in England and Wales because he or she is the subject of one of the following:
  - an Adoption Order (AO)
  - a Special Guardianship Order (SGO)
  - a Child Arrangements Order (CAO)
- Children who were adopted from 'state care' outside England and Wales (care that is provided by a public authority, religious organisation, or other organisation whose main purpose is to benefit society)

4. Roles and Responsibilities

4.1 The Role of the Designated Teacher (DT)

The Designated Teacher is responsible for:

- ensuring that Bishop Heber High School provides a high-quality education for children in care and previously looked after children and for promoting a culture of high expectations and aspirations
- ensuring that staff understand the challenges which can affect how children in care and previously looked after children learn and achieve, and how the whole school should support the educational achievement of these students
- promoting a culture in which children in care and previously looked after children are able to have their views taken seriously and are supported to take responsibility for their own learning
- ensuring that children in care and previously looked after children have access to targeted academic support
- ensuring Pupil Premium Plus funding is spent effectively to raise attainment for children in care and previously looked after children
- providing advice, information and guidance for staff and governors
- developing knowledge of Children's Services procedures by attending training and/or networking events
- the development and implementation of Personal Education Plans (PEPs) for children in care and mini-PEPs (school led) for previously looked after children
- maintaining up-to-date records of children in care and previously looked after children at the school including an overview of their progress
- liaising with the SENDCo and Year Leaders and relevant pastoral staff to ensure all children in care and previously looked after children needs are met
- keeping abreast of national and local policies and initiatives aimed at supporting the education of children in care and previously looked after children and attending training opportunities

EDUCATION OF CHILDREN IN CARE (CIC) AND PREVIOUSLY LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN (PLAC) POLICY

- liaising and working with agencies supporting children in care and previously looked after children
- providing training for staff regarding supporting children in care and previously looked after children
- producing an annual report to evaluate the progress of children in care and previously looked after children in the school.
- ensuring the wellbeing of the child in care or previously looked after children is fully supported in school.
- liaising with all external agencies, carers and parents to maintain high levels of communication for all parties.

The Designated Teacher at Bishop Heber High School is **Mrs K Kirkman** - Assistant SENDCo.

4.2 The Governing Body
The Governing Body is responsible for:

- ensuring Bishop Heber High School has a coherent policy for children in care and previously looked after children and for reviewing the effective implementation of the policy annually
- holding the school to account on how it supports children in care and previously looked after children
- ensuring there is a Designated Governor for children in care and previously looked after children who makes sure all governors are fully aware of the legal requirements and guidance for children in care and previously looked after children
- ensuring there is a Designated Teacher who has received appropriate training and is enabled to carry out their responsibilities for children in care and previously looked after children
- ensuring that there are clear systems and processes in place for identifying and reporting possible safeguarding or mental health concerns for children in care and previously looked after children
- ensuring there are PEPs for all children in care (set up and reviewed in conjunction with the student's Local Authority) and mini-PEPs for previously looked after children (school-led)
- ensuring all staff have a clear understanding of the issues that affect children in care and previously looked after children; their learning needs and how to support them
- ensuring children in care and previously looked after children have equal access to all areas of the curriculum and that reasonable adjustments are made, if necessary
- reviewing the annual report produced by the Designated Teacher to evaluate the progress of children in care in the school.

4.3 The Headteacher
The Headteacher will:

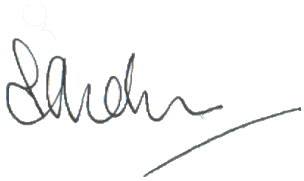
- Work with the Designated Teacher and the Designated Governor to determine the strategic development of policy and provision for children in care and previously looked after children in the school

4.4 All Staff
All staff at Bishop Heber High School will:

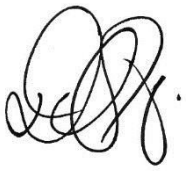
EDUCATION OF CHILDREN IN CARE (CIC) AND PREVIOUSLY LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN (PLAC) POLICY

- have high expectations of children in care and previously looked after children and positively discriminate to ensure they achieve excellent outcomes
- practise ACE awareness and are particularly mindful of the emotional, psychological and social effects of loss and separation from birth families, understanding that some children may find it difficult to build relationships of trust with adults because of their experiences, and how this might affect the student's behaviour
- engage with trauma informed practice to ensure children in care and previously looked after children flourish
- regularly liaise with the Designated Teacher regarding issues for children in care and previously looked after children and provide targets and assessment information for the PEP or mini-PEP
- seek advice and support from the Designated Teacher as necessary
- attend appropriate training regarding children in care and previously looked after children as required
- ensure that children in care and previously looked after children have every opportunity to participate fully in the school's curriculum, examinations, careers guidance, extra-curricular activities, work experience and additional educational support
- respect the confidentiality of children in care and previously looked after children and ensure that any information is shared strictly on a need-to-know basis
- involve appropriate carers/parents in home/school arrangements and ensure that any children in care and previously looked after children who may have learning difficulties are appropriately supported/assessed/resourced

Monitoring and Review
The Designated Teacher and Governing Body will keep the working of this policy under review.



Signed: Mrs S Anderson (Chair of Governors)



Mr D Curry (Headteacher)

Administration Use	
Statutory/Non-Statutory:	Statutory
Website:	Yes
GB Committee:	SPA
Document Formulated:	DHT revision Oct 2021
Review:	Annually (November)
Date Reviewed Document Approved by SPA:	14th November 2022
Date Reviewed Document Approved by FGB:	5th December 2022
Next Review Date:	November 2023