

Guidance for Governors - Looked After Children, Adopted or Previously Looked After Children

Each school should have a Designated Teacher who has overall responsibility for Looked After and Previously Looked After Children (LAC/PLAC). This should be a qualified teacher with suitable seniority and influence within the school.

1) Summary from the statutory guidance for schools' governing bodies¹

1.1 The role of the governing body

- The governing body must ensure that the designated teacher (for Looked After & Previously Looked After Children) undertakes appropriate training.
- As a minimum, governors must consider an annual report from the designated teacher which contains the information described in the guidance¹.
- The governing body and school leadership team should consider the report and act on any issues it raises so as to support the designated teacher and maximise the impact of the role.

1.2 The role of the designated teacher within the school

To take a lead responsibility for helping school staff understand the things which affect how looked after and previously looked after children learn and achieve.

The designated teacher should:

- Promote a culture of high expectations and aspirations for how looked after children, adopted and previously looked after children learn
- Make sure the young person has a voice in setting learning targets
- Be a source of advice for staff about differentiated teaching strategies appropriate for individual children and in making full use of Assessment for Learning
- Make sure that looked after & previously looked after children are prioritised in one-to-one tuition arrangements and that carers/parents understand the importance of supporting learning at home
- Have lead responsibility for the development and implementation of the child's personal education plan (PEP) within the school (compulsory twice a year for looked after children only, recommended for previously looked after children).
- Attend training relevant to the role, such as training provided by the Virtual School. 2 days per year is recommended by the DfE.

2) Keeping the governing body informed

- The governing body may want to appoint a nominated governor to meet, on a termly basis, with the schools designated teacher for Looked After & Previously Looked After Children. See questions to ask at the visit.
- The governing body can also keep up to date on anonymised issues relating to LAC/PLAC via the head teacher's report to the full governing body where numbers of children in care and related issues can be raised.
- In some cases schools include this information in the Designated Safeguarding Lead's (DSL) report to governors.
- One full governing body meeting a year should consider the Designated Teacher's statutory report to the school governing body and minute any resulting actions.

References

¹ The designated teacher for looked-after and previously looked-after children
Statutory guidance on their roles and responsibilities (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/designated-teacher-for-looked-after-children>)