

St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School



SUPPORTING LOOKED AFTER LEARNERS Policy

“Inspired by St Joseph, together with
Christ, we learn, we grow, we love.”

The Catholic education of young people is not just concerned with their academic needs but addresses the whole person. This is profoundly important. Time and time again teachers find themselves not just educating young minds but also caring for souls. Many young people are blessed with loving and supportive families, but this is not true for all the children entrusted to the care of schools. An essential expression of gospel values in a Catholic school is through the support of those whose social conditions or personal situations are seriously challenging. In other words the Catholic education of young people is not just concerned with their academic needs but addresses the needs and formation of the whole person, helping each individual to reach their full potential. As Pope Benedict has observed: "As you know, the task of the teacher is not simply to impart information or to provide training in skills intended to deliver some economic benefit to society; education is not and must never be considered as purely utilitarian. It is about forming the human person, equipping him or her to live life to the full – in short it is about imparting wisdom."

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

1. In line with Barnet's Children's Service, St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

supports the Council's commitment towards securing a first class education service and promote inclusion and equality for our Looked After Children.

2. Who are Looked After Children?

Under the Children's Act 1989 (supplemented by Children's Act 2004), a child is looked after by a local authority if he or she is in 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 compulsory accommodated (section 21)

All these groups are said to be Looked After Children (LAC). They may be looked after by the authority or in the care of another authority but living in Barnet.

3. We recognise that all Looked After Children (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

4. We are committed to ensuring improved educational life chances for Looked After Children and to delivering the five outcomes set out in the Every Child Matters. This policy sets our views regarding our work, involvement with other agencies and monitoring and review arrangements.

5. We will ensure that:

- our Designated Teacher and Governor with special responsibility for Children In Care work together to promote the educational achievement and welfare of Looked After Children in our school. The Headteacher will provide information to staff 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 DCSF statutory Guidance and the duty on Local Authorities to promote the education of Looked After Children.
- at all times we will maintain an holistic view, involve the child and take account of their view in issues that affect their education, good behaviour and a positive self image.
- we monitor the progress of our students who are in care 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 to support and enable looked After Children 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 participate in discussion, decision making and PEP planning and in reviewing the progress of our children in care, ensuring that a regular attendance is maintained and that the recommendations of the Children Act 2004 and the current guidance stipulated by the DCSF are followed.
- we share and transfer information and data speedily to relevant agencies and individuals.
- we develop our knowledge and attend training related to the needs of Looked After Children and work closely with Barnet's Corporate Parenting Team who are responsible for monitoring the educational and health outcomes of Looked After Children.

6. Key Persons and Agencies

Name of our Designated Teacher responsible for Looked After Children

Ms Sarah Ball

sball@stjosephs.barnet.sch.uk

Tel: 020 8202 5229

Name of our School Governor with special responsibility for Looked After Children

Mr Tom Kearns

tkearns@stjosephs.barnet.sch.uk

Barnet's Corporate Parenting Team: North London Business Park

Tel: 0208 359 4496

Date of Policy Review: March 2017

To be reviewed: March 2018

This policy was written by the Teaching, Learning and Achievement Committee and ratified by the Governing Body of St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

On: March 2017

Next review date: March 2018