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**LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN  
(LAC), ADOPTED CHILDREN &  
CHILDREN UNDER SPECIAL  
GUARDIANSHIP (SGO) POLICY**

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RATIFIED BY THE TRUST BOARD IN:  
JANUARY 2019

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**NEXT REVIEW DATE: SEPTEMBER 2019**

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## LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN (LAC), ADOPTED CHILDREN & CHILDREN UNDER SPECIAL GUARDIANSHIP (SGO) POLICY

<b>Person responsible for this policy:</b>	Angela Ransby
<b>Policy author:</b>	Angela Ransby
<b>Date to Trust Board:</b>	8 <sup>th</sup> January 2019
<b>Date Ratified:</b>	8 <sup>th</sup> January 2019
<b>Date to be Reviewed:</b>	September 2019
<b>Policy displayed on website:</b>	Yes

<b>CEO Signature:</b>	Angela Ransby
<b>Trust Board Signature:</b>	Roger Fern

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## **1. What does being a ‘Looked After Child’ mean?**

For the purpose of school admission, a looked after child is (a) in the care of an English local authority or (b) being provided with accommodation by such a local authority in the exercise of its social services functions (see section 22(1) of the Children’s Act 1989) DfE, Feb 2018.

They might be living:

- with foster parents
- at home with their parents under the supervision of social services
- in residential children's homes
- other residential settings like schools or secure units

They might have been placed in care voluntarily by parents struggling to cope. Or, children's services may have intervened because a child was at significant risk of harm.

A child will stop being ‘looked after’ when they are either adopted, returned home or turn 18. The local authority will continue to support children leaving care at 18 until they reach 21.

## **2. What is adoption?**

Adoption is a permanent, legal arrangement in which parental responsibility for a child passes to their adoptive parents. It provides children who cannot be brought up by their birth family with a new home and family.

## **3. What is the definition of a previously looked after child?**

A previously looked after child is a child adopted from the care of an English local authority under the Adoption Act 1976 or the Adoption and Children’s Act 2002 or who, immediately after being looked after by an English local authority, became the subject of a special guardianship or child arrangements order and are still subject to such orders (DfE Feb 2018).

## **4. What is a special guardianship order (SGO)?**

The Adoption and Children Act 2002 introduced Special Guardianship as a means of providing children and young people with a permanent placement that does not end the legal relationship between the child and his/her birth parents. If appropriate, children under a Special Guardianship Order (SGO) may continue to have links with their birth parents. Special Guardians can be members of the extended family or someone else deemed appropriate by the local authority. SGO is not as secure as adoption, but is intended to be a permanent placement.

These children and young people may struggle with:

### SEN

Looked after children and previously looked after children are significantly more likely to have SEN than their peers. Of those with SEN, a significant proportion will have EHC Plans.

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## Mental Ill Health

Looked after children and previously looked after children are more likely to experience the challenge of SEMH than their peers. For example, they may struggle with executive functioning skills, forming trusting relationships, social skills, managing strong feelings, sensory processing difficulties, foetal alcohol syndrome and coping with transition or change. This can impact on their behaviour and education. (DfE Feb 2018)

They may also struggle with:

- Emotion regulation
- Peer relationships
- Speech and language delay
- Difficulties with executive function
- Managing the developmental tasks and transitions of childhood

(Syne, Green & Dyer, 2012)

## **5. Aim**

The aim of this policy is to promote educational inclusion for these children and young people to enable them to access the full range of educational opportunities available to them and to reach their potential, both academically and personally.

## **6. Objectives**

Looked After Children, Adopted Children and Children under a Special Guardianship Order in this school will:

- receive an appropriate level of monitoring and support
- have access to the full range of educational opportunities

Teachers and other staff in this school will:

- receive an appropriate level of training on the issues affecting the educational achievement and psychological well-being of these children and young people and use this to guide their interactions with them
- plan for, and meet, individual needs

The Looked After, Adopted Children and Children under Special Guardianship Order Designated Teacher and Senior Management will:

- identify, arrange and/or deliver training to staff to enable the above to take place
- ensure the development of effective and inclusive strategies to address the needs of these children and young people
- ensure the smooth transfer of information within school, with the home school, carers and other agencies
- liaise effectively with other agencies involved with the child or young person
- work in partnership with carers, parents and others with parental responsibility to ensure that these children and young people receive their entitlement.
- ensure that records and plans are kept and maintained appropriately

- provide information to the Governing Body and LA about the progress and outcomes of looked after pupils, adopted pupils and pupils under a Special Guardianship Order on the school roll
- secure training for the designated teacher or others as appropriate to ensure that the school can meet the needs of these pupils

## 7. Participation in and co-ordination of review and planning meetings for Looked After Children, Adopted Children and Children under a Special Guardianship Order

The senior leadership team will do everything possible to enable appropriate staff to attend meetings where this would be in the interests of the child or young person.

## 8. Reporting to Governors

The designated teacher will report to the Governing Body on an annual basis:

- The number of Looked After, Adopted and Under Special Guardianship Order pupils in the school
- A comparison of progress for these children and young people as a group, compared to those of other pupils (pupil indicators)
- The attendance of pupils as a discrete group, compared to other pupils

The named governor must be satisfied that the school's policies and procedures ensure that Looked After Children, Adopted Children and Children under a Special Guardianship Order have equal access to the curriculum, statutory assessments, additional educational support, appropriate pastoral support and extra-curricular/curriculum enrichment activities.

Academy/Site	Named Governor with special responsibility
Alderwood Academy	Colin Kreidewolf
First Base Bury St Edmunds Academy	Dawn Marshall
First Base Ipswich Academy	Colin Kreidewolf
Lindbergh Campus	Helen Armitage
Montgomery Road Campus	Colin Kreidewolf
Parkside Academy	Helen Armitage
St. Christopher's Academy	Colin Kreidewolf
Westbridge Academy	Jane Tempest

Academy/Site	Designated Teacher
Alderwood Academy	Giles Wright
First Base Bury St Edmunds Academy	Kirsten Bennett
First Base Ipswich Academy	Stacey Laws
Lindbergh Campus	Kim Charlesworth
Montgomery Road Campus	Julie Cox
Parkside Academy	Trudy Read
St. Christopher's Academy	Tom Baker
Westbridge Academy	Nicola Axford

This policy should be read in conjunction with 'The designated Teacher for looked after and previously looked after children statutory guidance on their roles and responsibilities' DfE February 2018.

