



Salterns Academy Trust

THE SALTERNS ACADEMY TRUST: TRAFALGAR SCHOOL

LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN POLICY



Trafalgar
S c h o o l

Learning today, leading tomorrow

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UNCRC

Article 39: recovery from trauma and reintegration. Children who have experienced neglect, abuse, exploitation, torture or who are victims of war must receive special support to help them recover their health, dignity, self-respect and social life.

Trafalgar School has a designated teacher for looked after children (LAC) and previously looked after children responsible for promoting the educational achievement of every looked after and previously looked after child on our school's roll, ensuring that their personal, emotional and academic needs are prioritised.

They are also the central point of initial contact within the school for the external agencies working with these students.

Aims

As an inclusive school, Trafalgar School is committed to the promotion of a culture in which looked after and previously looked after children are:

- Prioritised for academic support
- Encouraged to actively participate in school life
- Supported to succeed and aspire to further and higher education or highly skilled jobs
- Able to take ownership of their learning and have opportunities to discuss their progress
- Able to discuss difficult issues (such as SEND, bullying, attendance) in a frank manner

Duties and responsibilities

Trafalgar School's designated teacher contributes to the development and review of whole-school policies and procedures so that they do not unintentionally put looked after and previously looked after children at a disadvantage (for example, procedures such as induction and transition).

Teaching and learning

The school takes seriously its responsibility for:

- Setting high expectations of looked after and previously looked after children's learning, and ensuring teachers set targets that accelerate progress
- Advising teachers on differentiated teaching strategies appropriate for looked after or previously looked after children
- Advising on the use of assessment for learning approaches to improve the progress of these students, and helping them and their teachers understand where they are in their learning and their next steps.

Looked after children with special educational needs

The school will ensure that the SEND code of practice, as it relates to looked after children, is being followed. In addition to this, where any looked after child has an education, health and care plan (EHCP), we will monitor the student's personal education plan (PEP) to ensure it works in harmony with the EHCP to set out how their needs are being met.

Working with staff

Regular training ensures the designated teacher(s) for LAC have strong awareness, training and skills around the specific needs of looked after and previously looked after children and how to support them. This information is shared with staff as appropriate. Where the designated safeguarding lead and designated teacher with responsibility for LAC are different people, they work closely together to ensure any safeguarding concerns regarding these students are quickly and effectively responded to.

Working with carers, parents or guardians

Trafalgar School is committed to:

- Promoting good home-school links
- Supporting progress by ensuring effective communication with carers, parents or guardians
- Ensuring carers, parents or guardians understand:
 - The potential value of one-to-one tuition and are equipped to engage with it at home
 - How the school teaches skills such as reading and numeracy
- Encouraging high aspirations and working with the child to plan for their future success and fulfillment.

Working with external agencies

Trafalgar School works closely with external agencies to ensure the school responds effectively to its students' needs. The school will continue to build and maintain relationships with other professionals, in particular the Portsmouth Virtual School, the local authority's SEND department and Children's Social Care to ensure we respond effectively to our students' needs.

Work with relevant professionals, including the VSH, ensures the designated teacher and other school staff have the skills to identify signs of potential mental health issues among looked after and previously looked after children, and know how to access further assessment and support where necessary.

Work with relevant professionals, including social workers and school staff, is ongoing throughout the academic year to develop, monitor and review looked after students' personal education plans.

Further information

Further information on the local support available for looked after children can be found at: <https://www.portsmoutheducationpartnership.co.uk/services/school-improvement/the-virtual-school/> or by contacting Tina Henley, Headteacher at the Portsmouth Virtual School: Tina.Henley@portsmouthcc.gov.uk.