

RIPLEY ST THOMAS

A CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY



Looked After and Previously Looked After Children

Originator	Mr M Wallace
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Next Review Date	September 2025

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An Education for Life

At Ripley St Thomas Church of England Academy we aim to provide the best level of education and outcomes possible for all our young people – including those children looked after or previously looked after.

Ripley St Thomas Church of England Academy will champion the needs of looked after children, raise awareness and challenge negative stereotypes about them, in order to ensure that they achieve to the highest level possible.

Under the Children Act 1989, a child is legally defined as 'looked after' by a local authority if he or she:

- is provided with accommodation for a continuous period for more than 24 hours
- is subject to a care order
- is subject to a residency order

Helping children in care to succeed and providing a better future for them is a key priority for Ripley St Thomas Church of England Academy. This policy takes account of:

- Lancashire County Council's duty under Section 52 of the Children Act 2004 to promote the educational achievement of Looked after Children (LAC).
- Promoting the Education of Looked after Children: Statutory guidance for local authorities July 2014
- The Education (Admission of Looked After Children) (England) Regulations 2006.

Ripley St Thomas Church of England Academy's approach to supporting the educational achievement of Children in Care is based on the following principles:

- Prioritising education.
- Promoting the importance of attendance. The best place for a young person to achieve is in school.
- Targeting support through a wide range of interventions.
- Having high expectations at all times.
- Promoting inclusion through challenging and changing attitudes.
- Achieving stability and continuity.
- Early intervention and priority action.
- Listening to children.
- Promoting health and wellbeing.
- Reducing exclusions and promoting stability through impeccable behaviour across the whole academy.
- Working in partnership with carers, social workers and other professionals.
- Develop our young people in body, mind and spirit and equip them to be responsible members of society.

Implications and support:

As for all our pupils, Ripley St Thomas Church of England Academy is committed to helping every looked after child to achieve the highest standards they can, including supporting aspirations to achieve in further and higher education. This can be measured by improvement in their academic and emotional achievements and attendance.

Ripley St Thomas Church of England Academy is committed to providing an outstanding education for all and will:

- Ensure a Designated Teacher for looked after children is identified on the senior leadership team to carry out the statutory responsibilities.
- Ensure a Personal Education Plan is put in place, implemented and regularly reviewed every term for looked after children.
- Be responsible for the monitoring of the attainment of our previously looked after children. This will include termly meetings with those children.
- Ensure applications are made to the local authority for pupil premium plus funding where appropriate.
- Identify a governor as Designated Governor for looked after children/previously looked after children.

THE ROLE OF THE DESIGNATED TEACHER

The designated teacher at Ripley St Thomas Church of England Academy for looked after children will:

- Monitor the admission, progress, and attendance and behaviour issues of Children in Care. This will include monitoring data for exclusions.
- Ensure a Personal Education Plan is put in place, implemented and regularly reviewed every term for looked after children.
- Ensure that the targets set on the Personal Education Plan have an academic focus, prioritising the progress of the young person in English and Maths.
- Ensure an every child matters monitoring interview is completed every term for previously looked after children with the relevant member of staff in school.
- Co-ordinate any support for the child that is necessary within school.
- Ensure confidentiality for individual pupils, sharing personal information on a need to know basis. This may include the senior leadership team, child protection team and progress leaders.
- Encourage looked after children to join in co-curricular activities and out of school learning. The school will fund a range of co-curricular activities involving costs, such as the Duke of Edinburgh Award.
- Act as an advisor to staff and governors, raising their awareness of the needs of looked after children.
- Set up timely meetings with relevant parties where the pupil is experiencing difficulties in school or is at risk of exclusion.
- Ensure the speedy transfer of information between individuals, agencies and – if the pupil changes school – to a new school.