



'Learn to love and love to learn; in God's love each one will shine'

St. Andrew's Church of England (VC) Primary School
Policy for Children Looked After.

Rationale:

At St. Andrew's Primary School it is our vision for every child in our school to have

- * positive self-esteem through inner confidence and strength
 - * creativity of thought within a life-long passion for learning
 - * excellence, high personal achievement and the experience of success
 - * a set of values by which to live
 - * an enjoyment of childhood
- developed within a caring Christian environment

The Objective:

To promote the educational achievement and welfare of children looked after on the roll of the school.

The Name of the Designated Teacher for Children in Care for the school :

Mrs. Maria Dixon

The Role of the Designated Teacher for Children in Care

Within School Systems:

- To ensure that the educational achievement of each child looked after on roll is monitored, tracked and promoted and where relevant, accelerated;
- To advise on most effective use of the Pupil Premium during the Personal Education Planning meeting.
- To ensure that the Pupil Premium funding and additional budget share funding where relevant is used to support the learning objectives for the student and to be accountable for how it is spent with outcome evidenced.
- To ensure that all staff, both teaching and non-teaching, are aware of the difficulties and educational disadvantage faced by children and young people 'in care' and understand the need for positive systems of support to overcome them;
- To inform members of staff of the general educational needs of children who are in care, and to promote the involvement of these children in school homework clubs, extra curricular activities, home reading schemes, school councils, etc;
- To act as an advocate for children and young people in care;
- To develop and monitor systems for liaising with carers and colleagues in Children's Services (CS) and birth parents where appropriate.
- To hold a supervisory brief for all children in care, e.g. to ensure all relevant education and care information is available to school staff where relevant and carer(s), and that this information is kept up to date; used on a needs to know basis to help the child overcome obstacles to learning and progress;
- To track and support the educational progress of all children who are looked-after in order to inform the school's development plan;
- To intervene if there is evidence of individual underachievement by use of the Pupil Premium funding to accelerate progress;

- To intervene if there is evidence of absence from school or internal truancy;
- To ensure that the educational targets within the Personal Education Plan are implemented fully, reviewed regularly and that all relevant staff are aware of them.
- To report to the Governing Body at least on an annual basis on the outcomes for children looked after (using the proforma available on the Hertfordshire Grid);
- To have completed the iLearn on-line learning module/s specifically for Designated teachers and to attend other training as appropriate
- To support the Quality Assurance Process for PEPs and for schools on the implementation of the role and responsibility of the Designated Teacher working with children looked after.

Work with Individual Children in Care

- To discuss with individual children, possibly alongside a carer, to arrive at a statement about their care arrangements and circumstances that they would be happy to share with staff and/or pupils;
- To enable the child to make a contribution to the educational aspects of their Care Plan;
- To ensure that the Pupil Voice section of the Hertfordshire Personal Education Plan is completed for each child and is the result of a one-to-one meeting so that the views of the child are faithfully represented in the PEP;
- To ensure that a Home-School Agreement is drawn up with the primary carer and signed by the Social Worker;
- To supervise the smooth induction of a new child looked after into the school.
- To develop in-school strategies to promote and accelerate the achievement of looked after children and close the gap between them and their peers.
- To fully support additional learning opportunities that may be available from the Virtual School and partner agencies

Liaison:

- To liaise with the member of staff responsible for monitoring children on the Child Protection Plan;
- To develop good communication with Children's Services (CS) staff so that the Personal Education Plan is supported by the child's Care Plan;
- To attend, arrange for someone else to attend, or to contribute in other ways to care planning meetings and statutory reviews;
- To be named contact for colleagues in Children's Services (CS);
- To ensure the speedy transfer of information between schools, agencies and individuals, and report on the progress and attendance of all children in care on the school role to the Virtual School as requested – attainment termly and attendance each month.

Training:

- To cascade training to school staff as appropriate;
- To attend the annual Designated Teachers conference and participate in area cluster groups for additional training and to share good practice;
- To develop knowledge of procedures by attending training events organised by the Children's Services (CS), the Virtual School or local Designated Teachers' cluster groups;
- To complete the iLearn on-line learning module and regular updates;
- To keep informed of any updated guidance from the DfE or other research or policy.

Governor

The name of a Governor with special responsibility for Children in Care in the school:

Mrs. Lynn Taylor

The role of that governor

The named governor will report to the Governing Body on an annual basis using the report from the Designated Teacher as source information:

- The number of looked-after pupils in the school;

- A comparison of test scores as a discrete group, compared with those of other pupils;
- The attendance of pupils as a discrete group, compared to other pupils;
- The level of fixed term/permanent exclusions; and
- Pupil destinations after leaving the school.

The named governor should be satisfied that the school's policies and procedures ensure that looked-after pupils have equal access to:

- The National Curriculum;
- Public examinations;
- Additional interventions to support educational progress e.g. One to One tuition
- Additional education support;
- Extra curricular activities;
- Work experience and
- The most effective use of Pupil Premium to raise attainment.

The named Governor is encouraged to support the Quality Assurance Process for schools on the implementation of the role and responsibility of the Designated Teacher working with children looked after if offered to ensure and confirm the schools' best practice.

The named Governor will be expected to have completed the iLearn on-line learning module on the Education of Children Looked After (Governors edition). This training may be accessed via the Virtual School page on the Grid, or www.learningpool.com/herfordshire.

School Responsibility

It is important that all teaching staff who are in contact with the child or young person are aware that he/she is being looked after by the Local Authority. The responsibility for the transfer of this information should be that of the Head Teacher and/or the Designated Teacher for Children Looked After.

It is appropriate for a classroom support assistant to have knowledge that the child is in care only when directly involved in the teaching of the child.

In the absence of the usual class teacher, some information regarding the child's circumstances should be shared with the teacher covering the class. The extent of this sharing should be determined by the Headteacher or the Designated Teacher for Children Looked After.

Admission Arrangements

On admission, records will be requested from the pupil's previous school and a meeting will be held with carer/parent/Social Worker as appropriate – but always involving someone with parental responsibility*1. This will provide information to inform the Personal Education Plan. An appropriate school induction will take place.

Involve the Young Person

It is important that a child is aware that information is being recorded regarding their personal circumstances. How this is shared with them clearly depends on their age and understanding. The explanation should emphasise that the school, the Social Worker, and their carer(s) are working together to promote their education.

It is important that the child is supported to complete the Pupil Voice section of the Personal Education Plan by the Designated Teacher to inform the PEP and Care Plan review meetings.

It is important to establish the child's view of their changed circumstances and what they want others to know. It is also important to ensure that a Social Worker/teacher/carer prepares the child for situations when they may be asked about home, e.g. by other pupils in the playground.

Communication with Other Agencies

Schools should ensure that a copy of all reports (e.g. End of year reports) should be forwarded to the child's Social Worker in addition to the foster carer or Residential Social Worker and if appropriate parent/s and the Virtual School.

Schools and education and social work colleagues within Children's Services should endeavour to co-ordinate their review meetings, e.g. to have an Annual or a Statement Review and a Personal Education Plan meeting or review.

It is important to exchange information between formal reviews if there are significant changes in the child's circumstances, e.g. if school is considering an exclusion, there is a change of care placement or there are significant issues that will affect educational provision e.g. attendance or behaviour.

Assessment, Monitoring and Review Procedures

Each pupil in care will have a Care Plan that will include a Personal Education Plan (PEP) that is developed jointly by the Social worker and Designated Teacher. This will identify specific areas of focus and include targets and associated action to improve the child's performance or educational achievement. Areas for consideration will include:

- Attendance;
- Achievement Record (academic or otherwise);
- Educational data so that progress can be tracked easily between Key Stages;
- Behaviour;
- Extended learning opportunities;
- Involvement in Out of School Hours Activities;
- Special needs (if any);
- Development needs (short and long term development of skills, knowledge or subject areas and experiences); and
- Long term plans and aspirations (targets including progress, career plans and aspirations).

The PEP will be updated and reviewed at least annually or at the point of any major change and contribute to the Statutory Reviewing process carried out by the Independent Reviewing Officer. The Designated Teacher is accountable for the implementation and review of the educational action to meet the targets within the Plan.

The named governor will report annually to the Governing Body on the progress of all looked-after children against the key indicators outlined above.

Notes:

*1 Education Law defines who is a parent very widely. It includes anyone who has parental responsibility for a child or who has care for them. This means it is possible for someone who does not have parental responsibility to be a 'parent' because they have care of the child in question for example the foster carer. (Ref Section 576 Education Act 1996, Children Act 1989 (amended) 'If this were my child' (Local Government Information Unit 2003)

The Pupil Premium: How schools are using the Pupil Premium to raise achievement for disadvantaged pupils (DfE 2012)

For more information please go to: www.thegrid.org.uk/virtualschool

Policy 'overseen and approved' by: Governors' SIMCE (School Improvement Monitoring Curriculum and Ethos) Committee

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