



Wolverham Primary and Nursery School Children in Care Policy

This policy has been written with reference and guidance from The Children's Act 1989. A young person is looked after by the local authority if he or she is in their care by reason of a court order or is provided with accommodation for more than 24 hours with the agreement of the parent. If looked after by agreement, this is referred to as being 'accommodated'. The implementation of a care order grants shared responsibility to the local authority and a designated person/s in order to protect and promote a child's welfare. In both instances, children may be living with foster carers, in a residential unit, with relatives or even with parents on a full or part time basis.

Aims

Our aims in implementing this policy will be:

- Ensure access to a balanced and broadly based curriculum to all children in care.
- Endeavour to support strategies which aim to reduce the number of exclusions and trancies of children in care.
- Ensure there is a designated teacher to advocate the rights of children in care.
- Develop systems of communication and protocols to support the education of children in care.
- Ensure that all children in care are fully included within the school and are given every opportunity through high quality teaching and pastoral support to achieve their potential.

Objectives

We will:

- Work alongside social workers to ensure that each child has a current Personal Education Plan.
- Provide a climate of support and challenge negative stereotypes.
- Ensure all children have the same opportunities to participate in all aspects of the National Curriculum, extra curricular activities and enjoy the school experience in line with corporate parenting principles.
- Ensure discretion when addressing the care status of the child and show sensitivity when dealing with matters surrounding the family.
- Seek to ensure staff are aware of and up to date with, local and national guidance on The Education of Children in Public Care.
- Ensure that there is a clear protocol for sharing information both within school and with outside agencies.
- Endeavour to support all children in care educated in this school to achieve their academic potential.

The school has a Named Governor: Mrs Kate Thorn who will work in co operation with the Head Teacher/designated teacher to ensure all children in care have equal access to all learning opportunities in line with their peers.

The Named Governor should be satisfied that:

- The school has a coherent policy to support children in care
- The policy is reviewed regularly in line with social inclusion guidance and joint DFE/Dept health guidance.
- The children are treated fairly and with the same opportunities as their peers.

- The governing body receives an annual report.

The school shall have a Designated Teacher: Mrs Tracy Webb and in her absence Becky Collier – Learning Mentor_ who will serve as the contact for social services and the education department. They will maintain responsibility for areas necessary to support children in care in school.

The **Designated Teacher** shall:

- Establish and maintain the ethos regarding looked after children by maintaining and respecting the confidentiality of all children in care ensuring information is shared on a strictly need to know basis.
- Set up systems to monitor and record the progress of all children in care and intervene, in cooperation with other agencies, if required.
- Facilitate effective forms of communication by building positive relationships between home, school, carers and agencies. Inviting all parties to meetings regarding the development of Personal Education Plans.
- Monitor the progress of the children and where appropriate liaise with the SENCO to engage outside support for the child.
- Ensure that the allocation of pupil premium plus (currently £1,900 per year in England) is used to support the children in care by providing both emotional and educational support, correlating directly with the Child's Personal Education Plan for both emotional and educational support. For CWAC Children In Care this allocation is granted termly upon application. Children in Care from other local authorities will have their own policy and system for the allocation of Pupil Premium Plus for this annual funding. Children in Care in Wales have a separate allocation of funds within each local authority and will be dealt with on an individual basis.

Overall responsibility for the implementation of systems to support children in care shall rest with the head teacher.

Personal Education Plans

Each child will have a personal education plan (PEP). These will be drawn up by the social worker who will liaise with the designated teacher or Learning Mentor to ensure the child has access to supports and systems appropriate to their needs. These shall be reviewed in line with the individual support given to the child under the terms of being 'accommodated'.

Admissions Arrangements

Children in care will remain a priority for admission and as such we shall follow LA published admission criteria.

Policy updated January 2018

Review: January 2021