



Eaton Primary School

Looked After Children and Previously Looked After Children

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 looked after children.
- Endeavour to support strategies which aim to reduce the number of exclusions and trancies of looked after children.
- Ensure there is a designated teacher to advocate the rights of looked after children.
- Develop systems of communication and protocols to support the education of looked after children.
- Ensure that funding to looked after children and previously looked after children is spent effectively.

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 looked after children educated in this school to achieve their fullest possible academic potential.
- Be clear on spending of Pupil Premium and Pupil Premium Plus funding to show impact and transparency.

Eaton Primary School's named Governor is Mrs J O'Shea who will work in co-operation with the Head Teacher to ensure all looked after children have equal access to all learning opportunities in line with their peers.

The named Governor's role is to ensure that:

- The school has a coherent policy to support looked after children.
- 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 Headteacher, (in his absence, the Deputy Headteacher) will serve as the contact for social services and the education department. They will maintain responsibility for areas necessary to support looked after children in school.

In School, the Headteacher and Deputy Headteacher will:

- Establish and maintain the ethos regarding looked after children by maintaining and respecting the confidentiality of all looked after children ensuring information is shared on a strictly need to know basis.
- Set up systems to monitor and record the progress of all looked after children and intervene, in cooperation with other agencies, if required.
- Facilitate effective forms of communication by building positive relationships between home, school, carers and agencies. Invite 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 Pupil Premium Funding received is spent in a way that effectively enhances social, emotional and academic wellbeing of the children that receive it.

Overall responsibility for the implementation of systems to support looked after children shall rest with the Headteacher.

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 school to ensure the child has access to the support 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'. Mrs R Elson will lead on supporting class teachers with completion of PEPs

Admission Arrangements

Looked after children will remain a priority for admission and as such school shall follow LA published admission criteria.

Headteacher

Chair of Governors

Date: September 2020