



## **Context**

As Corporate Parents we have a special duty to safeguard and promote the education of Children and Young People Looked After and to help them achieve their full potential. We recognise that there are crucial educational issues for young people in care and that as many as 50% of Derbyshire Children in Care leave school with no qualifications, compared with about 8% of all Derbyshire 16 year olds. We recognise that there are many barriers that prevent them achieving their full potential and we will do our best to reduce the barriers to achievement. As Corporate Parents we want to make a difference to the children in our school, by supporting their education in the fullest way we can, asking ourselves the question '**Is this good enough for my child?**'

Children in Care or Children in Public Care are those children:

- Who are subject to a **care order** (Children Act 1989 Section 31) where the local authority shares parental responsibility with the natural parents and is expected to act in partnership with them
- Who are **accommodated** (Children Act 1989 Section 20) where the local authority is caring for the young person either by agreement with, or at the request of the natural parents. Their parents retain full parental rights and must be consulted fully on all issues.

Children in Care or Children in Public Care

- may live in foster care
- may live in a residential children's home
- may live at home with their parents or extended family

## **Aims**

- To provide a safe, secure and welcoming environment for all children and young people, which maximises the abilities of all children in order to release their potential.
- To bring the educational achievement of our Children in Care closer into line with children of their age who attend the school.

## **Principles**

### **We will:**

1. Have high expectations of Children and Young People in Care.
2. Actively encourage parents to remain involved in their child's education, where this is possible.
3. Actively encourage carers to be involved in their child's education.
4. Listen to and acknowledge the child's views.
5. Respect confidentiality around information about Children in Care.
6. Work in partnership with other agencies and services to support children's education.
7. Ensure that while appropriate support is provided for children, they are never made to feel different from other children in school.
8. Be sensitive to the background of Children and Young People in Care in teaching, especially around work on families and family trees.
9. Challenge negative stereotypes.
10. Recognise that Children in Care who are members of ethnic minority groups, or who have a disability may be especially subject to isolation.
11. Ensure that Children in Care are not bullied.
12. Ensure that the needs of Children in Care are included when reviewing all other school policies.

## **In order to achieve the aims and principles the school will ensure that:**

1. There is a Designated Teacher for Children in Care who will:
  - a) Monitor children's progress and celebrate children's achievements, and set up intervention strategies and take appropriate action when necessary.
  - b) Monitor children's attendance, behavioural and emotional needs, and any exclusions and set up intervention strategies and take appropriate action when necessary.
  - c) Attend meetings and training for Designated Teachers.
  - d) Advocate for Children in Care within school and raise awareness among **all** school staff about the needs of Children in Care.
  - e) Liaise and develop good communications with Social Services and other agencies/ support services, so that the school can work in close co-operation with other services and agencies to support children's education.
  - f) Ensure that relevant staff receive appropriate information about individual children on a 'need to know' basis.
  - g) Ensure that if a child's care or educational circumstances changes that they receive the educational and pastoral support that they need, particularly when new to the school.
  - h) Ensure that all children have a Personal Education Plan and that a member of staff attends the Personal Education Plan meetings and writes the Action Plan, and where appropriate attends the Social Services Statutory Review meetings, and that they are well briefed beforehand.
2. Senior managers recognise the responsibility of being a Designated Teacher for Children Looked After and will provide appropriate support and systems for the role, with all the responsibilities outlined above, to be properly fulfilled.
3. Children are consulted and involved in the decisions taken about themselves, and have access to support in school.
4. Where a child is at risk of underachievement or exclusion, early intervention and extra academic and pastoral support is provided, when needed.
5. Children in Care with special educational needs are assessed, and get appropriate resources to support their learning.
6. Children in Care have every opportunity to participate fully in all aspects of school life, and that their interests and talents are encouraged and developed.
7. Children in Care receive extra support at times of educational transition, and that the Connexions Service are involved from Year 9, in planning to support the young person into post 16 education.
8. Information is shared strictly on a 'need to know' basis, and that all staff follow the Derbyshire Information Sharing Procedures for the Education of Young People in Public Care. The governors of Hallam Fields Junior School will ensure that all information/data is processed in line with the new GDPR Regulations May 2018.
9. Behaviour management policies recognise and make suitable provision for the needs and difficulties of Children in Care.

10. School staff work closely with parents and carers to ensure they are aware of the child's curriculum and progress, and how to support the child's learning at home.

**In order to achieve the aims and principles Senior Managers and Governors will:**

1. Nominate a school governor for Children in Care, or ensure that the remit is covered under the terms of reference of a committee, who should:
  - a) Advocate for the needs of Children in Care particularly if any issues arise in connection with admissions or exclusions.
  - b) Take the role of critical friend to the school by asking questions about support for Children in Care within school e.g. Are there current Personal Education Plans in place for all Children in Care within school ? Are sufficient resources allocated to meet the educational needs of Children in Care within school? Is the Designated Teacher receiving sufficient time and training to carry out their role effectively?
  - c) Ensure governors are aware of their role as Corporate Parents.
  - d) Receive confirmation from the headteacher that an annual review of the progress of Children in Care within the school has taken place
  - e) Attend relevant training events about Children in Care.
2. Ensure that the policy for Children in Care is implemented and reviewed in line with the school's policy review procedures.

**Further information:**

Derbyshire Schools Extranet – 'Looked After Children'.

'Guidance on the Education of Young People in Public Care' – DFES, Department of Health, May 2001.

'Supporting the Education of Looked After Children and Young People' – Derbyshire County Council.

'A Better Education for Children in Care' – Social Exclusion Unit Report, September 2003

<http://www.socialexclusionunit.gov.uk>

<http://www.dfes.gov.uk/incare>

**Approved by the Governing Body:**

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_