

# Howes Primary School



## Looked After Children Policy

<b>Date effective</b>	7.4.2020
<b>Review Date</b>	April 2022
<b>Date of Approval by Governors Committee approved by Author</b>	May 2020

Children and young people become ‘Children in Care’ either if they have been taken into Care by the local authority, or have been accommodated by the local authority (a voluntary care arrangement). Most LAC/CIC will be living in foster homes, but a smaller number may be in a children’s home, living with a relative or even be placed back at home with their natural parent

**LAC/CIC will have a care manager who arranges their care plan.**

**Mandy Mair (Inclusion Leader) oversees and monitors the Personal Education Plan (PEP) and educational element of a LAC review**

The staff and governors of Howes Primary School are committed to providing quality education for all students, based on equality of opportunity, access and outcomes. We recognise that, nationally, there is considerable educational underachievement of Children in Care, when compared with their peers, and we are committed to implementing the principles and practice, as outlined in DfEE Circular 0269/2000 and DfEE/DOH Guidance 2000 and the Children Act (2004). The Children Act places a duty to safeguard looked after children, to promote their educational achievements and to ensure that they are able to “achieve to and reach their full potential”. The Guidance recognises the collective responsibility of local authorities and schools to achieve good parenting and sets out six principles:

- prioritising education;
- having high expectations;
- inclusion – changing and challenging attitudes;
- achieving continuity and stability;
- early intervention – priority action;
- listening to children.

The Guidance introduced two key measures:

- To ensure designated Teachers are nominated in every school (Mrs Mair)
- To ensure Personal Education Plans (PEPs) are in place for all LAC/CIC.

### **ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITY OF THE DESIGNATED COLLEAGUE:**

- be an advocate for Children in Care;
- ensure a smooth and welcoming induction for the student and carer/s (and parent/s where possible). Note any specific requirements, including care status;
- ensure that each Child in Care has an identified member of staff that they can talk to
- co-ordinate support for the child in the school and liaise with other professionals and carers as necessary;
- ensure staff and governors receive relevant information and training
- ensure confidentiality for individual children and only share personal information on a need to know basis;
- provide written information to assist planning/review meetings and ensure attendance as far as possible;
- encourage Children in Care to participate in extra-curricular activities and out of hours learning;
- seek urgent meetings with relevant parties where the child is experiencing difficulties and/or is in danger of being excluded.

### **ACHIEVEMENT**

The Designated teacher will personally monitor and support the achievement of all looked after children.

### **ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF ALL STAFF**

- as with all children, have high aspirations and celebrate the educational and personal achievement of Children in Care;
- ensure entry to examinations for Children in Care;
- be familiar with the Guidance on Children in Care and respond appropriately to requests for information to support the completion of PEPs and other documentation needed as part of review meetings;
- liaise with the Designated Teacher where a Child in Care is experiencing difficulty;

### **EXTREMISM AND RADICALISATION**

Howes Primary School has a statutory duty under the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 and the statutory Prevent Guidance 2015 to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism.

Extremism is defined as vocal or active opposition to fundamental values of our society, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs. Radicalisation is defined as the act or process of encouraging extremist views or actions in others, including forms of extremism leading to terrorism.

There are a number of behaviours which may indicate a child is at risk of being radicalised or exposed to extremist views which could include becoming distant or showing loss of interest in friends and activities or possession of materials or symbols associated with an extremist cause.

Staff are expected to be vigilant in protecting all pupils from the threat of radicalisation and refer any concerns to the designated safeguarding lead. Staff will be particularly careful, given the vulnerability of the school's LAC pupils, to be alert to both the signs of vulnerability that are outlined in the Trust's Preventing Radicalisation Policy and those that LAC pupils may have a tendency to display, seeking advice and referring concerns as appropriate. Staff will receive appropriate training to ensure they have the knowledge and confidence to identify pupils at risk, challenge extremist ideas and know where and how to refer concerns.

## **ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITY OF THE GOVERNING BODY**

The governing body of this school will:

- ensure that admission criteria (Aided and Foundation) prioritise LAC/CIC, according to the Code of Practice on Admissions
- ensure that there is a named Designated Teacher for Children in Care;
- nominate a governor who links with the Designated Teacher, receives regular progress reports and provides feedback to the governing body
- for child protection and confidentiality reasons, ensure that information will be collected and reported in ways that preserve the anonymity, and respect the confidentiality of the pupils concerned.
- review the effective implementation of this policy, every two years.
- ensure that the school's other policies and procedures give children in care equal access in respect of:
  - Admission to school
  - The National Curriculum and public examination
  - Additional educational support where this is needed.
  - Extra curricular activities

## **TRAINING**

The Headteacher and Designated Person will be responsible for ensuring all staff are briefed on the regulations and practice outlined in the guidance from the Government and DoH (as above).

The Designated person for Looked after Children currently is Mrs M Mair.