




Yewstock School



Children in Care & Children Previously in Care Policy

Date reviewed by CC	13.11.2023	Policy Type	DCC
Date adopted by FGB	27.11.2023	Review Cycle	Annually
Date of next Review	12.11.2024	Signed by Chair of Governors	
			

Introduction

Yewstock School believes that in partnership with Dorset Council as Corporate Parents we have a special duty to safeguard and promote the education of Children In Care. This policy includes requirements set out in “Statutory guidance on the duty on local authorities to promote the educational achievement of looked after children under section 52 of the Children Act 2004” and associated guidance on the education of Looked after Children.

Terminology:

Children in Care (CiC) may also be known as Looked after Children (LAC) or Children Looked After (CLA). Children Previously in Care (CPiC) may also be known as Previously Looked after Children (PLAC) or Children Adopted from Care (CAfC).

Aims

- To provide a safe and secure environment, where education is valued and there is a belief in the abilities and potential of all children.
- To support our looked after children and give them access to every opportunity to achieve to their potential and enjoy learning.
- To fulfil our schools’ role as corporate parents to promote and support the education of our Children In Care, by asking the question, ‘Would this be good enough for my child?’

In pursuit of this policy we will

- Nominate a Designated Teacher for Children In Care and those previously in care (CPiC) who will act as their advocate and co-ordinate support for them.
- Nominate a school governor to ensure that the needs of Children In Care in the school are taken into account at a school management level and to support the Designated Teacher.
- Support the Designated Teacher in carrying out their role by making time available and ensuring that they attend training on Children In Care.

The Designated Teacher will:

- Be familiar with and follow the DfE guidance as presented in The designated teacher for looked-after and previously looked-after children (publishing.service.gov.uk)
- Maintain an up to date record of all Children in Care who are on the school roll. This will include:
 - ✓ Status i.e. care order or accommodated
 - ✓ Type of Placement i.e. Foster, respite, residential
 - ✓ Name of Social Worker, area office, telephone number
 - ✓ Daily contact and numbers e.g. name of parent or carer or key worker in children’s home
 - ✓ SEN Code of Practice
 - ✓ Child Protection information when appropriate
 - ✓ Baseline information and all test results
 - ✓ Attendance figures
 - ✓ Exclusions
- Ensure that there is a Personal Education Plan (PEP) for each child/young person to include appropriate targets and above information. This must be compatible with the child’s/young person’s Care Plan and where applicable include any other school plan, e.g. Education, Health and Care Plan, and associated plans, Transition Plan, Pastoral Support Programme. This plan will be reviewed at a termly PEP meeting.
- Liaise with the Virtual School for Children In Care on a regular basis with regard to the performance, attendance and attainment of Children In Care.
- Ensure that if/when the child transfers school all relevant information is forwarded to the receiving school as a matter of priority.

- Ensure that systems are in place to identify and prioritise when Children In Care are underachieving and have early interventions to improve this in line with existing school policy.
- Ensure that systems are in place to keep staff up to date and informed about Children In Care where and when appropriate.
- Ensure that Children In Care, along with all children are listened to and have equal opportunity to pastoral support in school.
- Ensure that they keep the school up to date with current legislation and its implication for the school in respect of Children In Care.
- Report to the Governing body annually on the performance of the looked after children who are on the roll of the school.

All staff will:

- Be aware of the CIC and CPiC in their classes and give them all possible support and encouragement as students who need special provision and positive discrimination whilst preserving confidentiality and showing sensitivity and understanding.

All Governors will:

- Support the Local Authority in its statutory duty to promote the educational achievement of Children In Care.
- Appoint a Designated Teacher to promote the educational achievement of all CIC and PLAC on the school roll.
- Nominate a named governor for CIC and CPiC.
- Ensure that the Designated Teacher is appropriately qualified for the role (in accordance with regulations).
- Ensure that the Designated Teacher has the opportunity to acquire and keep up-to-date the necessary skills, knowledge and training to understand and respond to the specific needs of Children in Care.

Admission Arrangements:

We recognise that due to care arrangements CIC may enter school mid-term and that it is important that they are given a positive welcome and where appropriate additional support and pre-entry visits to help them settle.

The school recognises that looked after children are an 'excepted group' and will prioritise Children In Care in the school's oversubscription criteria following the DCSF Admissions Code (Admissions of Looked after Children (England) Regulations (2006)).

Exclusions:

Yewstock School recognises that Children In Care are particularly vulnerable to exclusions. Where a CiC is at risk of exclusion the school will try every practicable means to maintain the child in school. A multi-professional meeting will be arranged, bringing together all those involved with the young person to discuss strategies to minimise the risk of exclusion. The child or young person's Personal Education Plan will reflect strategies to support the child and where relevant those employed in the Pastoral Support Plan. All relevant measures and resources will be considered to provide support to prevent an exclusion from happening. Please refer to the school's Behaviour Support Policy for more information.