

Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School and Nursery



Children Looked After Policy

March 2018

Children Looked After (CLA) Policy

SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT

“Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, young people and adults. We expect all staff and volunteers to share this commitment”.

MISSION STATEMENT

This is our school

Together we worship
Together we learn
Together we belong

With the love of God,
our dreams and ambitions come true.

AGREED BY STAFF: March 2018

AGREED BY GOVERNORS:

Introduction

Children Looked After (CLA) is one of the most vulnerable groups in society. The majority of Children Looked After have suffered abuse or neglect and it is nationally recognised that there is considerable educational underachievement when compared to their peers, which can result in poor exam success rates in comparison with the general population with fewer Children Looked After progressing to Higher Education and following progression pathways that will lead to future economic success and well-being. Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School and Nursery is committed to enabling CLA to achieve their best possible outcomes. The Designated Teacher for Children Looked After is Mrs Gillespie, Designated Safeguarding Lead.

The governing body is committed to providing quality education for all its pupils based on equality of access, opportunity and outcomes. This policy includes requirements set out in *“Statutory guidance on the duty on local authorities to promote the educational achievement of Children Looked After under section 52 of the Children Act 2004”* (Nov 2005) and associated guidance on the education of CLA.

The term ‘in care’ refers only to children who are subject to a care order by the courts under section 31 of the Children Act 1989 - they may live with foster carers, in a Children’s Home, in a residential school, with relatives or with parents under supervision. Children who are cared for on a voluntary basis are ‘accommodated’ by the local authority under section 20 of the Children Act – they may live in foster care, in a Children’s home or in a residential school. All these groups are said to be ‘Children Looked After’ (CLA). They may be looked after by our local authority or may be in the care of another authority but living in ours.

This aims of this policy are:

- To ensure that school policies and procedures are followed for Children Looked After as for all children
- To ensure that all Children Looked After have access to a broad and balanced curriculum
- To provide a differentiated curriculum appropriate to the individual's needs and ability
- To ensure that Looked After pupils take as full a part as possible in all school activities
- To ensure that carers and social workers of Looked After pupils are kept fully informed of their child's progress and attainment and emotional and social well being
- To ensure that Looked After pupils are involved, where practicable, in decisions affecting their future provision
- To arrange for appropriate adult/peer support to aid their settlement into school and ongoing progress throughout their time here.

Admissions

The Governing Body endorses council policy. The Council, as the Admission Authority for Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools, believes that admissions criteria should not discriminate against CLA pupils. Due to care placement changes, CLA may enter school mid-term. It is vital that we give them a positive welcome. If necessary we offer additional support and pre-entry visits to ease transition.

Monitoring Progress

The academic progress and emotional health and well-being of CLA will be monitored by classroom staff, SLT and the Designated Teacher every half term and appropriate feedback will be given to Social worker and carer and progress of the group as a whole will be monitored by SLT each term. Designated teacher and/or classroom staff will attend all Care review and Personal Education Plan (PEP) Reviews and make written and verbal contributions as required.

Allocation of Resources

The Governing Body will ensure that the school allocates resources to support appropriate provision for CLA, meeting the objectives set out in this policy. We encourage staff to attend courses that help them to acquire the skills needed to support CLA. Part of the Designated Teacher's role is to raise awareness of issues associated with CLA within the school and disseminate information.

Signed:

Chair of Governors