

Policy for Children in Care

Policy Statement

The purpose of William Austin Junior School's Policy for Children in Care is to make sure that every looked after child in our school has the correct support and every opportunity to achieve their full potential.

All pupils should:

- feel safe and be safe
- have a right to a healthy lifestyle
- have full access to the school curriculum and the wider life of school
- feel able to make a positive contribution
- develop skills and personal qualities that will prepare them for adult life

Rationale

We believe that:

- school should provide a safe and caring environment
- every pupil has a right to a broad and balanced curriculum
- it is the responsibility of all teachers to help each individual pupil reach their full potential
- school should have high expectations of all pupils-

Objectives

The aim of provision in our school is to:

- listen to the concerns and views of children in care
- provide continuity and support
- promote self-esteem and good social skills
- ensure children in care have every opportunity to participate fully in all aspects of school life
- set challenging but realistic learning targets
- support and encourage learning
- liaise with social services, foster carers, parents (where appropriate) and other professionals involved in the pupil's life
- respect the confidentiality of children in care

Roles and Responsibilities

The Headteacher, Mrs Adams, has the responsibility for the day-to-day management of all aspects of the school's work. This includes the management of provision for children in care.

The Designated Teacher, Mrs Douglas, has the responsibility for the day-to-day operation of the school's policy for Children in Care.

The safeguarding governor is Ghulam Abbas.

Each teacher has a responsibility for the care of all the pupils in their class. Teachers will be aware of any child in care in their class and will monitor their well-being and progress. Any pupil causing concern will be discussed with the Designated Teacher.

The Designated Teacher will:

- keep and update a list of all children in care in the school
- notify the Local Authority of all children in care, including cases of private fostering [children not living with their 'immediate' family]
- ensure all children in care have a Personal Education Plan (PEP) and attend PEP review meetings
- contribute to and attend LAC review meetings [the statutory review of the pupil's Care Plan]
- track and measure the progress of children in care
- include children in care in the School Liaison Meeting agenda [outside agency support]
- ensure staff in school have relevant information to enable them to positively promote the pupil's well-being and learning
- ensure each child in care has a member of staff that they can talk to
- attend relevant training and network meetings on a regular basis

The Personal Education Plan (PEP)

All pupils' progress is monitored half termly in school. High quality Personal Education Plans will be written for pupils in care every term and will contain short-term and long-term targets, as well as include pupils' long-term goals and aspirations. Progress and attainment will be reported at PEP Review Meetings (held twice a year). Allocated pupil premium funding will be used to provide on-going catch-up programmes and support to help pupils in care achieve expected levels of progress. The funding will also help promote inclusion in the wider life of school, such as after school activities and clubs.

The PEP will:

- act as a record of progress and achievement
- identify particular needs
- set out short-term targets
- include long-term plans and aspirations
- ensure access to services and support
- contribute to stability and minimise disruption in schooling
- set clear targets
- make clear any action required

Evaluating Success

The Policy for Children in Care will be reviewed on an annual basis to:

- keep up with any changes in legislation
- review the effectiveness of procedures

The success of the policy will be measured by the progress and well-being of children in care. The following will be taken into account, the pupil's:

- record of achievements
- academic progress
- confidence and self-esteem levels
- attendance
- participation in school life

References:

- Promoting the education of looked after and previously looked after children Revised Guidance for Virtual Schools, Heads and designated teachers [DFE Feb 2018]

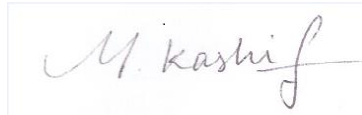
This policy will be monitored and reviewed by the Governors on an annual basis.

Policy updated: April 2021

Staff responsible: Sylvia Douglas

This policy was ratified by the Governing Body on: 5th May 2021

Signed on behalf of the Governing Body:



(signature)

M. Kashif - Chair of Governors

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