Child in Care Policy

FOREST VIEW SCHOOL

Policy name	Child in Care Policy
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Owner	BL
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Statement of intent

Educational achievement and subsequent life chances for children in care and previously CIC are of real concern. Pupils who are in care require special treatment and additional attention in order to improve their situation.

Forest View Primary School endeavours to provide positive experiences and offer stability, safety, and individual care and attention, for all our pupils. With this in mind, we aim to:

- Encourage pupils to reach their potential and to make good progress in relation to their professional, social and emotional development.
- Ensure that pupils enjoy high quality teaching and a curriculum which meets their needs and the requirements of legislation.
- Plan support for CIC realistically and using the school's resources efficiently in order to ensure the school meets their needs.
- Promote a positive culture in all aspects of school life.
- Help pupils develop their cultural, moral and social understanding.

Legal framework

This policy has due regard to legislation and statutory guidance, including, but not limited to, the following:

- Children Act 1989
- The Care Planning, Placement and Case Review (England) Regulations 2010
- Children (Leaving Care) Act 2000
- Children and Young Persons Act 2008
- Children and Families Act 2014
- Children and Social Work Act 2017
- DfE 'Promoting the education of looked-after children and previously looked-after children'
- DfE 'Exclusions from maintained schools, academies and pupil referral units in England'

This policy operates in conjunction with the following school policies and documents:

- Admissions Policy
- Home School Agreement
- Anti-Bullying Policy
- Equal Opportunities and Diversity Policy
- Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy
- Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Policy

Definitions

CIC are defined as:

- Children or young people who are the subject of a Care Order or Interim Care Order under the Children Act 1989.
- Children who are placed in foster care, children's residential homes, with relatives or friends, in semi-independent or supported independent accommodation.
- Children subject to a Care or Interim Care Order whilst placed with a parent, as the LA has parental responsibility.

- Children who are not subject to an order, but are accommodated by the LA under an agreement with their parents.

Previously-CIC are defined as:

- Children no longer looked after by an LA in England and Wales because they are the subject of an adoption, special guardianship or child arrangements order.
- Children who were adopted outside England and Wales from 'state care' (care that is provided by a public authority, religious organisation, or other organisation whose main purpose is to benefit society).

Roles and responsibilities

The governing board is responsible for:

- Ensuring the school has a coherent policy for CIC and previously-CIC.
- Reviewing the school's policies and procedures in conjunction with legislation and statutory guidance.
- Ensuring the designated teacher for CIC and previously-CIC has received the appropriate training.
- Ensuring CIC and previously-CIC have equal access to all areas of the curriculum and that reasonable adjustments are made, if necessary.
- Reviewing the annual report produced by the designated teacher to evaluate the progress of CIC in the school.
- Ensuring they receive feedback from the **headteacher** regarding the effectiveness of the policy on an **annual** basis.

The virtual school head (VSH) is responsible for:

- Monitoring the attendance and educational progress of the children their authority looks after.
- Ensuring that arrangements are in place to improve the education and outcomes of the authority's CIC, including those placed out-of-authority.
- Building relationships with health, education and social care partners, as well as other partners, so they and the designated teachers understand the support available to CIC and previously-CIC children.
- Working with the school to ensure all CIC in attendance are fully supported in reaching their full potential.
- Acting as the educational advocate for CIC.
- Acting as a source of advice and information to help parents of previously-CIC as effectively as possible.
- Ensuring there are effective systems in place to:
    - Maintain an up-to-date roll of the CIC who are in school settings, and gather information about their educational placement, attendance and progress.
    - Inform the headteacher and designated teacher if they have a pupil on roll who is looked after by the LA.
    - Ensure social workers, schools, designated teachers, careers and IROs understand their role and responsibilities regarding a pupil's PEP.
    - Ensure that up-to-date and effective PEPs that focus on educational outcomes are maintained for all CIC.

    - Avoid delays in providing suitable educational provision.
    - Ensure the education achievement of CIC is seen as a priority by everyone who has responsibilities for promoting their welfare.
    - Report regularly on the attainment, progress and school attendance of CIC through the authority's corporate parenting structures.

The headteacher is responsible for:

- Appointing the designated teacher for CIC and previously-CIC.
- Allowing the designated teacher the time and facilities to succeed in carrying out their duties.
- Overseeing this policy and monitoring its implementation, feeding back to the **governing board annually** on the following:
    - The number of CIC and previously-CIC in the school
    - An analysis of assessment scores as a cohort, compared to other pupil groups
    - The attendance of CIC and previously-CIC, compared to other pupil groups
    - The level of fixed term and permanent exclusions, compared to other pupil groups
- Ensuring all members of staff are aware that supporting CIC is a key priority.
- Promoting actively challenging negative stereotypes of CIC.

The designated teacher for CIC and previously-CIC is responsible for:

- Building relationships with health, education and social care partners and other partners so that they and the VSH understand the support available to CIC and previously-CIC.
- Promoting the educational achievement of CIC and previously-CIC at the school.
- Acting as the main contact for social services and the education department.
- Promoting a culture of high expectations and aspirations.
- Ensuring CIC are involved in setting their own targets.
- Advising staff on teaching strategies for CIC.
- Ensuring that CIC are prioritised for one-to-one tuition and support.
- Leading on how the child's personal education plan PEP is developed and used in school to ensure the child's progress towards targets is monitored.
- Liaising with the Assistant Head Teacher Inclusion to ensure all pupil needs are met.
- Working with the child's VSH and social worker to develop and implement their PEP.
- Working with the headteacher to submit an annual report to the governing board, which details the progress of all CIC and previously-CIC.

The ~~SENCO~~ Assistant Head Teacher Inclusion is responsible for:

- Ensuring they are involved in reviewing PEP and care plans for CIC and previously-CIC.
- Liaising with the class teacher, designated teacher, specialists and parents when considering interventions to support the progress of previously-CIC.

Staff are responsible for:

- Being aware of CIC and previously-CIC in their classes and providing them with support and encouragement.
- Preserving confidentiality, where appropriate, and showing sensitivity and understanding.
- Being vigilant for any signs of bullying towards CIC and previously-CIC.
- Promoting the self-esteem of CIC and previously-CIC.

Personal education plans (PEPs)

- All CIC must have a care plan; PEPs are an integral part of this care plan.
- The PEP is an evolving record of what needs to happen for a pupil to enable them to make the expected progress and fulfil their potential.
- The PEP will reflect the importance of a personalised approach to learning which meets the identified educational needs of the child.
- The school will work with other professionals and the child's carers to use the PEP to support the child's educational needs, raise the child's aspirations and improve their life chances.
- All relevant bodies, such as the LA, the designated teacher and carers, will involve the child in the PEP process at all stages.
- The PEP will address the pupil's full range of education and development needs, including:
    - On-going catch-up support, which will be made available for children who have fallen behind with work.
    - Suitable education provided by the LA, where the child is not in school because of suspension or exclusion.
    - Transitional support where needed, such as if a child is moving to a new school.
    - School attendance and behaviour support, where appropriate.
    - Support to help the child meet their aspirations, which includes:
        - Support to achieve expected levels of progress for the relevant national key stage and to complete an appropriate range of approved qualifications.
        - Careers advice, guidance and financial information about FE, training and employment, that focusses on the child's strengths, capabilities and the outcomes they want to achieve.
        - Out-of-school hours learning activities, study support and leisure interests.

Working with agencies and the VSH

- The school will ensure that copies of all relevant reports are forwarded to the CIC social workers, in addition to carers or residential social workers.
- The school will coordinate their review meetings; for example, **hold their annual review of CIC with their statutory care review.**
- The school will work with other agencies to exchange information such as changes in circumstances, exclusions or attendance issues.
- Behaviour management strategies will be agreed between the VSH and the school, to ensure challenging behaviour is managed in the most effective way for that individual child.
- The designated teacher for CIC and previously-CIC will communicate with the VSH and child's social worker to facilitate the completion of the PEP.
- Through the designated teacher, the school will work with the VSH, social worker and other relevant agencies to monitor any arrangements in place so that actions and activities recorded in the child's PEP are implemented without delay.
- The designated teacher will communicate with the VSH and agree on how pupil premium plus (PP+) can be used effectively to accommodate the child's educational attainment and progress.
- PP+ for previously-CIC will be allocated directly to, and managed by, the school.
- The school will work with the VSH to manage allocation of PP+ for the benefit of our cohort of CIC, or previously-CIC, and according to their needs.
- If deemed necessary, the school will allocate an amount of funding to an individual to support their needs.
- The designated teacher will ensure consistent and strong communication with the VSH

regarding CIC who are absent without authorisation.
- The school will share their expertise on what works in supporting the education of CIC and previously-CIC.

Training

The designated teacher and other school staff involved in the education of CIC and previously-CIC have received the appropriate training, this includes information about the following:

- School admissions arrangements
- SEND
- Attendance
- Exclusions
- Homework
- GCSE options
- Managing and challenging behaviour
- Promoting positive educational and recreational activities
- Supporting pupils to be aspirational for their future education, training and employment

Pupil mental health

- CIC and previously-CIC are more likely to experience the challenge of social, emotional and mental health issues which can impact their behaviour and education. Designated teachers will have awareness, training and skills regarding a child's needs and how to support them in relation to behaviour management and mental health.
- The designated teacher will work with the VSH to ensure the school is able to identify signs of potential mental health issues, understand the impact issues can have on CIC and previously-CIC, and knows how to access further assessment and support, where necessary.
- To regularly measure the emotional and behavioural difficulties experienced by CIC and previously-CIC, a Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire will be used to help social workers and other relevant professionals to form a view about CIC's emotional wellbeing. Teachers will regularly complete their element of the questionnaire to assist social workers in their assessment.

Exclusions

- Past experiences of CIC and previously-CIC will be considered when designing and implementing the school's **Behaviour Policy**.
- The school will have regard to the DfE's statutory guidance 'Exclusions from maintained schools, academies and pupil referral units in England' and, as far as possible, avoid excluding any CIC.
- Where the school has concerns about a child's behaviour, the VSH will be informed at the earliest opportunity.
- Exclusion will only be considered as a last resort; where exclusion is considered, the school will work with the VSH, and others, to consider what additional support can be provided to prevent exclusion, and any additional arrangements that can be made to support the pupil's education in the event of exclusion.
- The school will inform parents that they can seek the advice of the VSH on strategies to support their child to avoid exclusion.

Pupils with SEND

- Support for CIC with SEND, who do not need an EHC plan, will be covered as part of the child's PEP and care plan reviews.
- The ~~SENCO~~ Assistant Head Teacher Inclusion, class teacher, designated teacher and specialists will involve parents when considering interventions to support their child's progress.
- If appropriate, the VSH will be invited to comment on proposed SEND provision for previously-CIC.

Information sharing

- Appropriate and specific arrangements for sharing reliable data are in place to ensure that the education needs of CIC and previously-CIC are understood and met.
- The arrangements set out:
    - Who has access to what information and how the security of data will be ensured.
    - How pupils and parents are informed of, and allowed to challenge, information that is kept about them.
    - How carers contribute to and receive information.
    - Mechanisms for sharing information between the school and relevant LA departments.
    - How relevant information about individual pupils is passed between authorities, departments and the school when pupils move.