



Cared for Children Policy

Signed by
Chair of Governors

Agreed by the Board of Governors on 1st July 2019



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Cared for children - National Legislation

Under the Children Act 2004, a child is looked after by a Local Authority if he or she is in their care or is provided with accommodation for more than 24 hours by the authority. They include the following:

- Children who are accommodated under a voluntary agreement with their parents (section 20)
- Children who are the subject of a care order (section 31) or interim care order (section 38)
- Children who are the subject of emergency orders for the protection of the child (section 44)

Rationale

Our core purpose is to support our cared for children giving them access to every opportunity to achieve their potential and enjoy learning and provide a safe and secure environment.

Implementation

To support cared for children fully the school will:

- Provide an entitlement to a balanced, broadly based curriculum. Our cared for children policy reinforces the need for teaching that is fully inclusive and the need to make adjustment at times to the provision for cared for children.
- Allocate resources to support appropriate provision for cared for children, meeting the principles set out in this policy.
- Work with social workers for the cared for children who should initiate a Personal Education Plan (PEP) within 20 days of joining the school, or of entering care, and ensure that the young person is actively involved.
- Monitor and track the achievement and attainment of cared for children to enable their PEP to be reviewed, according to their needs, as initiated at the review meeting.
- Ensure that cared for children status is highlighted appropriately in the school's information systems so that information is readily available as required.

The Guidance introduced two key measures:

- To ensure designated Teachers are nominated in every school.
- To ensure Personal Education Plans (PEPs) are in place for all cared for children.

This governing body is committed to ensuring that Designated Teachers and staff are enabled to carry out their responsibilities effectively.

Purpose

Holmes Chapel Comprehensive School and Sixth Form College is committed to providing quality education for all its students, based on equality of opportunity, access and outcomes. This governing body recognises that, nationally, there is considerable educational underachievement of cared for children, when compared with their peers, and is committed to implementing the principles and practice, as outlined in DfE Circular 0269/2000 and DfE/DOH Guidance 2000 and the Children Act (2004).

The Children Act places a duty to safeguard cared for children, to promote their educational achievements and to ensure that they are able to “achieve to and reach their full potential”.

ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITY OF THE DESIGNATED TEACHER

The Designated Teacher should:

- be an advocate for cared for children; and liaise with the virtual school where available.
- ensure a smooth and welcoming induction for the child and carer/s (and parent/s where possible).
- ensure that a Personal Education Plan is completed (within 20 days of entering care or joining a new school). This should be prepared with the child and the carer/s (and parent/s if possible), in liaison with the social worker and other relevant support workers/agencies. Where appropriate, the PEP should take account of any Individual Educational Plan (IEP), Pastoral Support Plan (PSP), Individual Behaviour Plan (IBP), career plan or any other relevant plans. The PEP should inform and be reviewed each term.
- ensure that each Cared for Child has an identified member of staff that they can talk to.
- ensure entry to examinations for all cared for children.
- 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 cared for children 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.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF ALL STAFF

- as with all children, have high aspirations and celebrate the educational and personal achievement of cared for children;
- ensure entry to examinations for cared for children;
- be familiar with the Guidance on cared for children 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 Cared for Child is experiencing difficulty.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE GOVERNING BODY

The governing body of this school will:

- ensure that admission criteria prioritise cared for children, according to the Code of Practice on Admissions to comply with legislation.
- ensure all governors are fully aware of the legal requirements and Guidance for cared for children.
- ensure that there is a named Designated Teacher for cared for children.
- 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 students concerned.
- review the effective implementation of this policy, preferably annually and at least every three years.
- ensure that the school's other policies and procedures give cared for children equal access in respect of:
 - Admission to school
 - The National Curriculum and public examinations
 - Additional educational support where this is needed
 - Extra-curricular activities
 - Work experience and careers guidance.

The Headteacher will be responsible for ensuring all staff are briefed on the regulations and practice outlined in the guidance from the DfES and DoH 9 (*department of Health and Social Care(as above)).

Prepared by: Mrs F Fellows

Approved by the Governing Body: 1st July 2019

Signature: 

Name: Mrs C Burgess, Chair of Governors

Date: 1st July 2019

To be reviewed in 3 years

Date for review: June 2022