



## Looked After Child Policy

<u>Contents</u>	<u>Page</u>
Introduction	2
Definitions	2
Possible barriers and solutions	2
Roles and responsibilities	3
Confidentiality	4
Training	4
Review	4

## **Introduction**

The Governing Body of Golden Flatts Primary School is committed to providing quality education for all its pupils, based on equality of opportunity, access and outcomes. This Governing Body recognises that, nationally, there is considerable educational underachievement of children in residential and foster care, when compared with their peers, and is committed to implementing the principles and practice, as outlined in "Guidance On The Education Of Looked After Children"(May 2000) and Section 52 of the Children Act 2004 .

## **Definitions**

Children who are "looked after" may be "Accommodated" "In Care" or "remanded/ detained" as follows.

- **Accommodated ( Section 20)**

This is a voluntary arrangement, because parents are ill, missing, unable to cope, or as part of a child protection plan negotiated with the family. The parents retain parental responsibility but parental responsibility is shared with the LA.

- **In Care.**

A child is in care only if a court has granted an Interim Care Order (Section 38) or Care Order (Section 31) which it will issue if it believes a child to be suffering or likely to suffer significant harm. A care order generally gives parental responsibility to the local authority, or shares this with the parents. Where parental responsibility is shared with the LA, parental responsibility is not removed from the parents.

- An emergency protection order (Section 44)
- Removed by police using their powers of protection – these are emergency actions to safeguard children. (Section 46)

- **Remanded/detained**

A child can be remanded or detained as in the following:-

- Remanded by a court following criminal charges
- A court directing a social services department to accommodate a child (already on a supervision order for criminal behaviour) for up to six months.

## **Possible barriers and solutions**

Looked After Children may have some or all the following issues:-

- Low self esteem
- Poor education standards due to time out of school
- Delayed social/emotional/ cognitive development
- Be bullied or bully others.
- Be prone to mental health issues
- Be isolated with few friends
- Have behaviour issues.
- Poor attachments to others.

This makes them an extremely vulnerable group in terms of education and future life- chances.

The Governing Body of Golden Flatts Primary School is committed to ensuring that these children are supported as fully as possible and will ensure that the following are in place, and are working effectively.

- A Designated Teacher For Looked After Children
- Personal Education Plans for all Looked After Children.
- All staff have a clear understanding of confidentiality and issues that affect Looked After Children.
- Effective strategies that supports the education of this vulnerable group.
- The progress of Looked After Children is tracked as part of the School Pupil Progress Meetings.
- The needs of looked after children are reviewed regularly as part of the School's Team Around the Primary School meetings and Inclusion Team meetings.

## **Roles and responsibilities**

### **Designated Teacher**

The Designated Teacher should:

- be an advocate for Looked After Children;
- when new to the school, ensure a smooth and welcome induction for the child and carer, and note any specific requirements, including care status;
- ensure that a Personal Education Plan(PEP) is completed, as soon as possible (at least within 20 days of entering care or joining a new school). This should be prepared with the child and the carer and updated on a termly basis.
- keep PEPs and other records up to date, particularly in time to inform review meetings;
- ensure that each child in public care, if necessary, has an identified member of staff to mentor them;
- co-ordinate support for the child in the school and liaise with other professionals and carers as necessary;
- ensure staff receive relevant information and training and act as an advisor to staff and governors;
- 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;
- ensure that the child and carer(s) receive early notification of meetings, parents evenings and other events and that communication remains regular and positive.
- encourage Looked After Children to participate in extra-curricular activities and out of hours learning, where feasible;
- analyse pupil progress data and ensure that the appropriate interventions are in place and that all parties are informed.
- ensure speedy transfer of information between individuals and other relevant agencies and to a new school if and when the child transfers;
- identify a TA for each looked after school who is responsible for collecting photos, copies of certificates etc that can be included with their PEP as a record of their life at Golden Flatts Primary School.
- seek urgent meetings with relevant parties where the child is experiencing difficulties and/or is in danger of being excluded.
- ensure that returns on looked after children are completed – as requested by the relevant local authority.
- in accordance with Keeping Children Safe in Education 201, the designated teacher is to ensure that appropriate staff have the information they need in relation to a child's looked after legal status and contact arrangements with birth parents and those with parental responsibility. They should also have information about the child's care arrangements and the levels of authority delegated to the carer by the authority looking after him / her.

### **All staff**

- Ensure that any child in public care is supported sensitively and that confidentiality is maintained;
- be familiar with the and respond appropriately to requests for information to support the completion of PEPs and other documentation needed as part of review meetings;
- respond positively to a child in public care's request to be the named person that they can talk to when they feel it is necessary;
- contribute to the Designated Teacher's requests for information on educational attainment and needs, as appropriate;
- as with all children, ensure that no child in public care is stigmatised in any way;
- provide a supportive climate to enable a child in public care to achieve stability within the school setting;
- as with all children, have high aspirations for the educational and personal achievement of Looked After Children
- positively promote the self-esteem of Looked After Children

### **Governing Body**

The Governing Body of this School will:

- Ensure all governors are fully aware of the legal requirements and Guidance for Looked After Children;
- be aware of whether the School has Looked After Children and how many (no names);
- ensure that there is a named Designated Teacher for Looked After Children;
- liaise with the Head Teacher to ensure that the Designated Teacher is enabled to carry out her/his responsibilities in relation to Looked After Children;
- support the Head Teacher, Designated Teacher and other staff in ensuring the needs of Looked After Children are met;
- nominate a Governor who links with the Designated Teacher, receives regular progress reports and provides feedback to the Governing Body. ( These reports should not include any names of individual children for child protection and confidentiality reasons)
- review the effective implementation of this policy.

### **Confidentiality**

- Information on Looked After Children will be shared with school staff on a “need to know basis”
- The Designated Teacher will discuss what information is shared with which school staff at the PEP meeting. Once this has been agreed with the social worker, carer, young person, and other parties, complete confidentiality is to be maintained.

### **Training**

The Headteacher, Designated Teacher and Leadership Team will be responsible for ensuring all staff are briefed on the regulations and practice outlined in this policy.

### **Monitoring and review**

This policy will be reviewed annually.

**Review Date: November 2016**

**Next Review Date: December 2017**

**Reviewed by: S. Sharpe**

**Ratified by the Governing Body: 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2016**

This policy has been impact assessed with regards to disability, gender and race December 2015 – Reviewer S. Sharpe