

Children in Care Policy (Sf)

1st June 2017 Version Number: 1

Review Date: Summer 2018

Northern
House
School



CHILDREN IN CARE

POLICY (Sf)



Children in Care Policy

We recognise that, nationally, children in public care (Children in Care) have significantly underachieved compared to their peers.

The Executive Board of Northern House School (Wokingham) is committed to promote the inclusion, well-being and achievement of all its Children in Care.

We acknowledge and will work to promote the following six principles:

- prioritising education
- having high expectations
- promoting inclusion through challenging and changing attitudes
- achieving stability and continuity
- early intervention and priority action
- listening to children

The Executive Board will ensure that the school has a Designated Teacher for Children in Care and that the Designated Teacher is able to carry out his/her responsibilities effectively.

The Role of the Designated Teacher

The Role and Responsibilities of the Designated Teacher for Looked After Children (DCSF Statutory Guidance 2009) states that the Designated Teacher should be *"someone with sufficient authority to make things happen, (who) should be an advocate for the young people in public care, accessing services and support, and ensuring that the school shares and supports high expectations for them"*.

Our Designated Teacher will:

- ensure a welcome and smooth induction for the child and their 'carer'.
- ensure that each Children in Care has an identified member of staff that they can talk to. This need not be the Designated Teacher but should be based on the child's own wishes.
- ensure staff are informed, on a need to know basis, of any relevant information about the child.
- co-ordinate any support that is necessary within the school.
- encourage Children in Care to join in extra-curricular activities and out of school learning.
- ensure, as far as possible, attendance at planning and review meetings.
- ensure that every member of staff in school receives relevant training, and act as an advisor to staff and to Executive Board Members.
- set up urgent meetings with relevant parties where the child is experiencing difficulties in school or is at risk of exclusion.
- ensure the speedy transfer of information between individuals, agencies and, if the child changes school, to the new school.



THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF ALL STAFF

All our staff will:

- have high aspirations for the educational and personal achievement of all Children in Care in the school
- ensure that all Children in Care are supported sensitively
- respond positively to a child's request to be the named member of staff whom they can talk to when they feel it is necessary
- respond promptly to the Designated Teacher's requests for information
- work to enable all Children in Care to achieve stability and success within school
- promote the self-esteem of all Children in Care, maintain confidentiality and ensure that no Children in Care is stigmatised in any way.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

The Executive Board will:

- ensure that the school has a Designated Teacher, and that the Designated Teacher is enabled to carry out his/her responsibilities
- support everyone with responsibility for Children in Care in the school in ensuring that the needs of these children are recognised and met
- ensure that all Executive Board Members are fully aware of the legal requirements and Guidance on the education of Children in Care
- nominate a Governor to take special interest in this area of the school's work

RESPONSIBILITY OF THE NOMINATED GOVERNOR

The Nominated Governor will liaise with the Designated Teacher and report to the Executive Board on an annual basis:

- the number of Children in Care in school.
- their attendance as a discreet group, compared to other student.
- their end of key stage and predicted scores as a discreet group compared to other students.
- the number of fixed term and permanent exclusions.
- the destinations of students who leave the school.

The information for this report will be collected and reported in ways that preserve the anonymity, and respect the confidentiality of the students concerned.

The Nominated Governor will also ensure that the school's other policies and procedures give Children in Care equal access in respect of:

- admission to school – Children in Care are in the highest category for admission.
- the national Curriculum and public examinations.
- additional educational support where this is needed
- in conjunction with the child's social worker, ensure that a Personal Education Plan is completed within **20 working days** of the child joining the school

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- in conjunction with the social worker ensure that the Personal Education Plan is reviewed every 6 months
- the National Curriculum and public examinations.
- additional educational support where this is needed.
- extra-curricular activities.
- work experience and careers guidance

TRAINING

- The Headteacher/ Designated Teacher / CPD Leader will ensure that all staff are briefed on the regulations and practice outlined in this policy and other relevant policies.