Stalbridge CE VC Primary School

Vision

Our vision is that all children at Stalbridge Primary are equipped with wisdom to learn and grow in their own achievements and make a valuable contribution to their school and community, finding their place in the world.

Designated Governor: Debbie Chant

Designated Teacher: Simon Elledge

Policy for Looked After Children

The school policy for Looked after children was recommended by the virtual schools team at Dorset County Council and adopted by Stalbridge CE VC Primary School, with full agreement of the Governing Body. The policy was approved and ratified by the Standards and Inclusions Committee.

Who are our looked after children?

Children and young people become 'Looked after' either if they have been taken into care by the local authority, either via a legal route under the Children's Act 1989 or where a voluntary agreement has been reached with the birth family. Most looked after children will be living in foster homes but a small number may be in a children's home, living with a relative or even be placed back at home with their birth family.

Stalbridge Primary School believes that in partnership with the local councils, we have a special duty to safeguard and promote the education of Looked After Children.

This policy takes account of:

- The County Council's duty under Section 52 of the Children Act 2004 to promote the educational achievement of Looked After Children (LAC)
- The Education (Admission of Looked After Children) (England) Regulations 2006.
- Relevant DfES guidance to Governing Bodies (Supporting Looked After Learners: A Practical Guide for School Governors)

Aim;

- ✓ To promote the safe and secure environment, where education is valued and there is a belief in the abilities and potential of children.
- ✓ To support our Looked After Children and give them access to every opportunity to achieve their potential and enjoy learning.
- ✓ To fulfil our school's role as corporate parents to promote and support the education of our Looked After Children.

In pursuit of this policy we will

- Nominate a Designated teacher for Looked After Children who will act as their advocate and coordinate support for them
- Name a school governor to ensure that the needs of Looked After Children are taken into account at the school management level and to support the Designated teacher.
- Ensure that the Designated teacher attends specific training so that they have the most up to date knowledge on supporting Looked After Children
- Review all policies and procedures regularly to ensure that they adequately address the needs of Looked After Children and that those children have access to all aspects of education, particularly with regard to admissions, curriculum, extra support, extracurricular activities and careers guidance.
- Have a clear and consistent plan for attendance at all Personal Education Plan meetings to ensure efficiency in planning and attaining targets. The school will allow staff cover to attend.
- PEP meetings will be called at least annually if not more frequently.
- Papers required for each PEP meeting will be available prior to the start of the meeting.
- Unless otherwise agreed, the child should attend all or part of the meeting and should be released from lessons to do so, agreed by child and social worker as relevant
- Following a PEP meeting, Targets and Actions will be shared with relevant teaching staff immediately after the meetings or as soon as the minutes arrive
- Further details raised will be actioned and reviewed with the foster carer and social worker and reviewed at the next PEP

Stalbridge Primary School policy for children looked after – roles and responsibilities

Governing Body –

The governing body will;

- Ensure that the admission criteria and practice prioritises children looked after according to the DCSF Admission Code of Practice
- Ensure all governors are fully aware of the legal requirements and guidance for Children Looked After
- Ensure there is a designated teacher for Children Looked After
- Liaise with the headteacher, designated teacher, and all other staff to ensure the needs of Looked After Children are met
- Nominate a governor with responsibility for CLA who links with the designated teacher
- Receive regular reports from the designated teacher which should include
- the number of Children Looked After on roll and the confirmation that they have a Personal Education Plan
- their attendance, compared to other pupils
- their attainment (SATs) compared to other pupils
- the number of fixed term and permanent exclusions (if any)
- the destinations of pupils who leave the school

Ensure that the school's policies and procedures give Children Looked After equal access in respect of

- Admission to school
- National Curriculum and examinations
- Out of school learning and extracurricular activities

Annually, review the effective implementation of the school policy for Children Looked After

The role of the designated teacher- Simon Elledge

- Be an advocate for Children Looked After
- Attend relevant training for Children Looked After
- Act as the key liaison professional for other agencies and individuals in relation to Children Looked After seeking advice from Dorset's Children Looked After Advisory Teachers when appropriate.
- Ensure that all Children Looked After receive a positive reintegration on entering the school
- Ensure that all Children Looked After have an appropriate Personal Education Plan and that it is completed within 14 days of joining the school or of entering care (see Dorset's Guidance on Personal Education Plans)
- Keep Personal Education Plans and other records up to date and reviewed appropriately
- Convene an urgent multi professional meeting if a Child Looked After is experiencing difficulties or at risk of exclusion.
- Ensure confidentiality on individual children, sharing confidential/personal information on a need to know basis.
- Act as the key advisor for staff and governors on issues relevant to Children Looked After.
- Ensure that care and school liaison is effective including invitations to meetings and other school events
- Actively encourage and promote out of hours learning and extracurricular activities for Children Looked After
- Ensure speedy transfer of information when a Child Looked After transfers into another educational placement.
- Contribute information to CLA reviews when required.
- Provide regular reports to the Governing Body regarding CLA in the school and relevant policy and practice development

Whole school staff

Whole School Staff will;

- Have high expectations of the educational and personal achievements of Children Looked After
- Positively promote the raising of a Child Looked After's self esteem
- Ensure any Child Looked After is supported sensitively and that confidentiality is maintained
- Be familiar with the Guidance on Children Looked after and respond appropriately to requests for information to support Personal Education Plans, and review meetings
- Respond positively to the request to be a Child Looked After's named person
- Liaise with the designated teachers where a Child Looked After is experiencing difficulties
- Give only official exclusions and only use exclusions as a last resort, in line with statutory regulations and Dorset's exclusion advice
- Contribute to regular liaison with social care colleagues and other appropriate professionals
- Keep appropriate records, confidentially as necessary, and make these available to other professionals as appropriate. Fully comply with Data Protection.

This policy has due regard for the following policies

- Admissions
- The School Code of Conduct
- Behaviour Policy
- Home School Agreement
- Anti-bullying Policy
- Equal Opportunities Policy
- Child Protection Policy
- Special Educational Needs Policy
- Confidentiality Policy

Governing body adopted policy on;

This policy shall be reviewed annually;

Written by the Designated lead Simon Elledge