



LANSDOWN PARK ACADEMY

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Children in Care (CIC) Policy

Approved by: Academy Council

Date: March 2018

Last reviewed on: February 2018

Next review due by: March 2019

Lansdown Park – Children in Care Policy

Purpose

To promote the educational achievement and welfare of CIC within Lansdown Park

Rationale

Children in Care (CIC) are one of the most vulnerable groups in society. The majority of looked after children have suffered abuse or neglect and it is nationally recognised that considerable educational underachievement exists when compared to their peers.

Under the Children Act 1989, a child is 'looked after' by a local authority if he or she is in their care or provided with accommodation for more than 24 hours by the authority.

They fall into four main groups:

- Children who are accommodated under a voluntary agreement with their parents (section 20)
- Children who are the subjects of a care order (section 31) or interim care order (section 38)
- Children who are the subjects of emergency orders for their protection (sections 44 and 46)
- Children who are compulsorily accommodated – this includes children remanded to the local authority or subject to a criminal justice supervision order with a residence requirement (section 21).

The term 'In Care' refers only to children who are subject to a care order by the Court under Section 31 of the Children Act 1989 - they may live with Foster Carers, in a Children's Home, in a Residential School, with relatives or with parents under supervision.

Children who are cared for on a voluntary basis are 'accommodated' by the local authority under Section 20 of the Children Act – they may live in foster care, in a children's home or in a residential school.

All these groups are said to be 'Children in Care'. They may be looked after by the Local Authority or may be in the care of another authority but living in our locality.

Introduction

Lansdown Park aims to promote the educational attainment, achievement and welfare of looked after children. The Designated Teacher for Children in Care is Ms Haltia Watkins.

The Academy Council is committed to providing a quality education for all its students based on equality of access, opportunity and outcomes. This policy includes requirements set out in "Statutory guidance on the duty on local authorities to promote the educational achievement of Children in Care under Section 52 of the Children

Act 2004" (Nov 2005) and associated guidance on the education of looked after children.

Aims

The aims of the school are to:

- ensure that school policies and procedures are followed for Children in Care as for all children
- ensure that all Children in Care have access to a broad and balanced

Curriculum

- provide a differentiated curriculum appropriate to the individual's needs and ability
- ensure that looked after students take as full a part as possible in school activities
- ensure that carers and social workers of looked after students are kept fully informed of their child's progress and attainment
- ensure that looked after students are involved, where possible, in decisions affecting their future provision.

Admissions

The Academy Council endorses the Bristol City Council Policy for the admission of Children in Care. At Lansdown Park Academy we believe that it is vital that all new students receive a positive welcome and full support for their inclusion in our learning community.

Inclusion

This policy recognises that all students are entitled to a balanced, broadly based curriculum. Our CIC Policy reinforces the need for teaching and learning that is fully inclusive. The Academy Council will ensure the school makes appropriate provision for all looked after students.

Allocation of Resources

The Academy Council will ensure that the school allocates resources to support appropriate provision for CIC, meeting the objectives set out in this policy. We will work in partnership with Bristol City Council Virtual School for looked after children and other Virtual Schools for students who are from other Local Authorities, to ensure that Children in Care receive the full range of support to which they are entitled to enable them to make progress and achieve.

Monitoring the progress of Children in Care

This school assesses each looked after student's attainment on entry to ensure continuity of learning. The social worker for the looked after child initiates a Personal Education Plan – PEP - within 20 days of the student joining the school, or of entering care, and ensures that the young person is actively involved. Following the initial PEP, the role of the Designated Teacher is to liaise with other agencies involved to arrange further PEP review meetings and provide copies of the PEP to the social worker, Local Authority and other agencies.

The allocation and purpose of the Pupil Premium

Plus (PP+) will be included within the PEP. All PEPs are completed electronically through the online system provided by Welfare Call.

Record Keeping

The Designated Teacher knows all the Children in Care in school and has access to their relevant contact details including parents, carers, and Virtual School specialist staff, teacher/support worker and social worker. The status of looked after children is identified within the school's information systems so that information is readily available to all classroom teachers and relevant associate staff. CIC are identified as a vulnerable group when tracking, monitoring and reporting on attainment and progress.

Staff Development

Part of the Designated Teacher's role is to raise awareness of issues associated with CIC within the school and disseminate information.

Partnership with parents/carers and care workers

We believe in developing strong partnerships with parents/carers and care workers to enable CIC to achieve their potential to aid their future economic well-being. Review meetings are an opportunity to further this collaboration and partnership working.

Links with external agencies/organisations

We recognise the important contribution that external support services make in supporting CIC. Colleagues from the following support services may be involved with individual CIC:

- Social care worker/ Community care worker/ Residential child care worker
- Virtual School for Children in Care (Children in Care in Education Team)
- Other Virtual Schools for Children in Care from other Local Authorities
- Educational psychologists and others from Local Authority SEN services
- Medical officers
- School nurses
- CAMHS
- Education Welfare Officers
- Youth Offending Service
- External Learning Providers

CIC Policy Review and Evaluation

The Designated Teacher for Children in Care will undertake a thorough review and evaluation of the impact of the Children in Care policy and practice each year and report to the Academy Council.