



# Children in Care POLICY

Version 5 ~ September 2023

TEACHERS WHO

*love teaching*

TEACH CHILDREN

*to love learning.*

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## Children in care Policy ~ Teagues Bridge Primary

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At Teagues Bridge Primary School we believe that in partnership with Telford and Wrekin Council as Corporate parents, we have a special duty to safeguard and promote the education of children in care. We recognise that, nationally, pupils in care have significantly underachieved compared with their peers. We intend, through this policy, to promote the inclusion, well-being and achievement of these children in our school.

AIM:

It is our aim to:

- Provide a safe and secure environment, where education is valued and there is a belief in the abilities and potential of all children.
- Support our Children in Care and give them access to every opportunity to achieve their potential and enjoy learning.
- Fulfil our school's role as corporate parents to promote and support the education of children in care, by asking the question, 'Would this be good enough for my child?'

In pursuit of this policy we will:

- Nominate a Designated teacher for children in care who will act as their advocate and co-ordinate support for them.
- Nominate a school governor to ensure that the needs of Children in Care in the school are taken into account at a school management level and to support the Designated Teacher.
- Support the Designated Teacher in carrying out their role by making time available and ensuring that they attend training on Children in Care.

Role and Responsibility of the Designated Teacher:

The Designated Teacher for Children in Care will be a senior member of staff with sufficient authority to influence school policy and practice. The named teacher in this school is MRS S. ABDULLA - Headteacher.

The Designated Teacher will:

- Be an advocate for all children in this school who are in care.
- Ensure confidentiality for individual children and only share personal information on a need to know basis.
- Maintain an up to date record of all children in care who are on the school roll. This will include:
  - Status i.e. care order or accommodated
  - Type of placement i.e. Foster, residential, family or Friends
  - Name of Social worker, contact details
  - Daily contact numbers e.g. name of parent or carer or key worker in the children's home
  - SEND code of practice where appropriate
  - Baseline information and all test results
  - Attendance information
  - Exclusions
- Ensure a welcome and smooth induction for the child and the carer
- Liaise with the social worker to ensure the Personal Education Plan (PEP) is completed as soon as possible.
- Ensure that the PEP for each child includes appropriate targets. This must be compatible with the child's care plan
- Ensure the PEP is reviewed termly

- Ensure the child, carers, social worker and other relevant parties receive early notification of school based meetings, parents consultations and other events and that communication, both written and verbal, remain regular and positive
- Ensure that someone is available to attend the CIC reviews on each child or prepare a written report which promotes the continuity and stability of their education and behaviour
- Ensure that each pupil in care has an identified member of staff they can talk to. This need not be the Designated Teacher but should be based on the child's own wishes. Members of staff who take on this role may need to be supported by someone else in the school. They should be alert to any child protection issues, disclosures that pupils make, and know what action to take. They should link closely with the school's Designated Teacher for child protection (Mrs S. Abdulla)
- Inform the responsible social worker when a child in care is absent from school without notification
- Inform the carer/social worker and the LA of any fixed term exclusions.
- Promote the involvement of the children in care in school clubs and extra-curricular activities
- Attend relevant training and cascade to school staff
- Liaise with Corporate Parenting Team on a regular basis with regard to performance, attendance and attainment of children in care
- Ensure that systems are in place to identify and prioritise when Children in Care are underachieving and have early interventions to improve this.
- Ensure that Children in Care, along with all children are listened to and have equal opportunities to pastoral support in school
- Ensure that they keep the school up to date with current legislation and its implications for the school in respect of Children in Care
- Report to the governing body termly on the performance of the Children in Care (without naming names)
- Ensure that if/when the child transfers school all relevant information is taken to the receiving school as a matter of urgency. Ensuring that the receiving school sign for all the documentation.

Role and Responsibilities of all staff:

The school staff will:

- Ensure any child in care is sensitively supported and that confidentiality is maintained
- Have high aspirations for the education and personal achievements of children in care
- Respond appropriately to requests for information to support the completion of the PEP and other documentation needed as part of the review meetings
- Contribute to the designated teacher's requests for information on educational attainment and needs, as appropriate
- Provide a supportive climate in school, enabling children in care to achieve stability

### Roles and Responsibilities of the Governing Body

The governing body will:

- Ensure that there is a named Designated Teacher for Children in Care and that she is enabled to carry out her responsibilities
- Support the headteacher, Designated Teacher and other staff in ensuring that the needs of the Children in Care are met
- Nominate a governor who links with the Designated Teacher and who takes a special interest in this area of the school's work

### Responsibility of the Nominated governor

The nominated governor for Children in Care is Reverend Kevin Evans.

Reverend Evans will:

- Liaise with the Designated Teacher to ensure that a report is presented to the Governing Body on a termly basis which includes:
  - The number of children in care
  - The educational attainment, compared with that of other pupils
  - The attendance, compared with that of other pupils
  - Any fixed term exclusions
  - The destination of pupils who leave the school
  - Brief outline of the PEP
- Ensure that the school's policies and procedures give Children in Care equal access in respect of:
  - Admission to school
  - The National Curriculum
  - Additional educational support where needed
  - Extra-curricular activities

All Governors and Staff will:

- Support the LA in its statutory duty to promote the educational achievement of Children in Care.

Review:

This policy will be reviewed as to its effective implementation on an annual basis and updated as appropriate.

