

St Lukes Policy for the Education of Children in Public Care



INTRODUCTION

The Governing Body of St Luke's School recognises that, nationally, there is considerable educational underachievement of children in public care, when compared with their peers and is committed to implementing the principles and practice as outlined in DfEE (Dept for Education and Employment) Circular 0269/2000, DCSF (Dept for Children, Schools and Families) /DoH (Dept of Health) Guidance on the Education of Children and Young People in Public Care 2000 and Essex County Council Protocol on the Education of Children in Public Care.

The DfEE/DoH guidance introduced two measures in order to improve

- a) multi-agency co-ordination,
- b) educational achievement of children in public care.

They were:

- The appointment of a designated teacher in every school, and
- Each child in public care to have a Personal Provision Plan

This governing body is committed to ensuring that the designated teacher and whole staff group are enabled to carry out their responsibilities effectively.

ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITY OF THE DESIGNATED TEACHER

The Designated Teacher for children in Public Care should be a senior member of staff with sufficient authority to influence school policy and practice. The named teacher in St Luke's school is the headteacher.

The Designated Teacher will:

- Be an advocate to all children in this school who are in public care;
- Ensure confidentiality for individual children and only share personal information on a need to know basis;
- Respond to the social worker initiating the Personal Provision Plan by ensuring the drawing together of the required information, co-ordinating the plan's delivery and monitoring and reviewing its effectiveness;
- Ensure the child, carer/s, social worker and other relevant parties receive early notification of school based meetings, parents evening and other events and that communication, both written and verbal, remains regular and positive;
- Provide written information to assist planning/review meetings and ensure attendance as far as possible;
- Co-ordinate support for individual children in school, monitor educational progress and liaise with other professionals and carers as necessary;
- Inform the responsible social worker of any major decisions affecting the child;
- Inform the responsible social worker when a child in public care is absent from school without notification;
- Inform the carer/social worker and the LA of any fixed term or permanent exclusions;
- Promote the involvement of public care in school clubs and extra-curricular activities;
- Ensure staff receive relevant information and training and act as an advisor to staff and governors;
- Attend relevant training and cascade to school staff, where appropriate.

Ratified Autumn 2017

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ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The school staff will:

- Ensure any child in public care is sensitively supported and that confidentiality is maintained;
- Be familiar with the DCSF/DoH Guidance on Children and Young People in Public Care and have high aspirations for the education and personal achievements of children in public care;
- Respond appropriately to requests for information to support the completion of Personal Provision Plans and other documentation needed as part of 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 public care to achieve stability.

ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITY OF THE GOVERNING BODY

The Governing Body will:

- Ensure all governors are fully aware of the legal requirements and the DfEE/DoH Guidance on the Education of Children and Young people in Public Care;
- Ensure there is a named Designated Teacher for children in public care and that s/he is enabled to carry out his/her responsibilities in relation to children in public care;
- Support the Headteacher/Designated Teacher and other staff in ensuring the needs of children in public care are met;
- Nominate a governor who links with the Designated Teacher and who reports to the Governing Body on an annual basis;
 - The number of children in public care in the school (without detail or name)
 - The educational attainment as a discrete group, compared to other pupils;
 - The attendance of pupils as a discrete group, compared to other pupils;
 - Any fixed term/permanent exclusions.
- Ensure that it is satisfied that the school's policies and procedures enable children in public care to have equal access to;
 - The National Curriculum
 - Public examinations
 - Careers guidance
 - Extra curricular activities
 - Work experience
 - Additional educational support

REVIEW

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

Ratified Autumn 2017