

SHARLEY PARK COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN POLICY

	SHARLEY PARK COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL	
Date Reviewed	Signed	Minute Number

Sharley Park Community Primary School

'LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN' POLICY

September 2020

The local authority has a duty to safeguard and promote the education of Children and Young People Looked After and to help them achieve their full potential.

It is recognised that there are crucial educational issues for young people 'Looked After' and that as many as 50% of Derbyshire 'Looked After' young people leave school with no qualifications, compared with about 8% of all Derbyshire 16 year olds.

We at Sharley Park Community Primary School recognise that there are many barriers that prevent them achieving their full potential and we will do our best to reduce those barriers to achievement.

Children 'Looked After' or children in 'Public Care' are those children:

- Who are subject to a care order (Children Act 1989 Section 31) where the local authority shares parental responsibility with the natural parents and is expected to act in partnership with them.
- Who are accommodated (Children Act 1989 Section 20) where the local authority is caring for the young person either by agreement with, or at the request of the natural parents. Their parents retain the full parental rights and must be consulted fully on all issues.

'Looked After' children or children in 'Public Care'.

- May live in foster care.
- May live in a residential children's home.
- May live at home with their parents or extended family.

Aim

- Through internal assessment procedures to identify under-achievers.
- To be pro-active in raising achievement and ensuring each child fulfils their potential.

Principles

We will:

1. Have high expectations of 'Looked After' children, as with all of our children.
2. Actively encourage parents to remain involved in their child's education where this is possible.
3. Actively encourage carers to be involved in the child's education.
4. Respect confidentiality around information about children 'Looked After'.
5. Work in partnership with other agencies and services to support children's education.
6. Be sensitive to the background of these children e.g. when working on background/family/family trees.
7. Challenge negative stereotypes.
8. 'Recognise that children who are 'Looked After' and also members of ethnic minority groups, or who have a disability may be especially subject to isolation.

Sharley Park Community Primary School

In order to achieve the aims and principles the school will ensure that:

1. There is a designated teacher responsible for children 'Looked After'. At Sharley park this is Lucy Wass who will ensure that the child has a Personal Education Plan (PEP). Mrs Wass will liaise with the class teacher to:
 - a) Monitor progress and celebrate achievements, set up intervention strategies and take appropriate action where necessary.
 - b) Monitor attendance, behavioural and emotional needs.
2. The PEP will be written by Lucy Wass in conjunction with the class teacher and the SENDCO if required and where appropriate parents/carers and the child. There will be a clear action plan resulting from the PEP and both PEP and action plan will be reviewed at least twice annually. Where appropriate the Headteacher will attend statutory review meetings providing a report where necessary.
3. The Lead person (LW) will:
 - a) Attend meetings and in-service training for designated teachers.
 - b) Raise awareness among all staff about the needs of Children Looked After.
 - c) Liaise and develop good communications with social care and other support services in order to support the child's education.
 - d) Ensure that relevant staff receive appropriate training on a 'needs to know' basis.
4. The School will:
 - a) Provide a warm and welcoming environment for any new LAC attending our school ensuring they settle in as quickly as possible.
 - b) Ensure that all records are shared with agencies (as appropriate).
 - c) Develop school/home links to ensure LACs new to school settle quickly.
 - d) If there are any issues link with outside agencies e.g. Behaviour Support, EWO or MAT team.

Further Information

'Guidance on the Education of Young People in Public Care- DFES May 2001

'Supporting the Education of Looked After Children and Young People' DCC

'A better Education for Children in Public Care'- Social Exclusion Unit Report Sep 2003.

DCC extranet.

<http://www.socialexclusionunit.gov.uk>

<http://www.dfes.gov.uk/incare>

Review Date September 2019

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In order to achieve the aims and principles Senior

Managers and Governors will:

1. Nominate a school governor for Looked After Children (Safeguarding Gov), or ensure that the remit is covered under the terms of reference of a committee, who should:
 - a) Advocate for the needs of Looked After Children and Young People particularly if any issues arise in connection with admissions or exclusions.
 - b) Take the role of the critical friend to the school by asking questions about support for LAC e.g. Are there current PEPs in place for all LAC s? Is the designated teacher receiving sufficient time to carry out the role?
 - c) Ensure Governors are aware of their role as Corporate Parents.
 - d) Receive confirmation from the Headteacher that an annual review of the progress of LAC within school has taken place.
 - e) Attend any relevant training events about Looked After Children.
2. Ensure that the policy for Looked After Children is implemented and reviewed in line with the school's policy review procedures.