



Rivermead Primary School

Policy on Children in Care

Committee Responsible: Full Governing Body

Date of Ratification by Full Governing Body: 04/10/2018

Minute Reference:18/19:010

Date of Next Review: Summer 2020

Document History

Version	Date of Review	Changes/Comment
1.0	Summer 2016	
	Autumn 2018	

Children in Care Policy

We recognise that, nationally, children in public care (C in C) have significantly underachieved compared to their peers.

The Governing Body of Rivermead Primary School is committed to promote the inclusion, well-being and achievement of all its C in C.

We acknowledge and will work to promote the following six principles:

- prioritising education
- having high expectations
- promoting inclusion through challenging and changing attitudes
- achieving stability and continuity
- early intervention and priority action
- listening to children

The Governing Body will ensure that the school has a Designated Teacher for C in C and that the Designated Teacher is able to carry out his/her responsibilities effectively.

Designated Member of staff: Brian Prebble (Headteacher)
Designated Member of the Governing Body: Mark Harris (Chair)

The Role of the Designated Teacher

The Role and Responsibilities of the Designated Teacher for Looked After Children (DCSF Statutory Guidance 2009) states that the Designated Teacher should be *"someone with sufficient authority to make things happen, (who) should be an advocate for the young people in public care, accessing services and support, and ensuring that the school shares and supports high expectations for them"*.

Our Designated Teacher will:

- ensure a welcome and smooth induction for the child and their 'carer'
- ensure that each C in C has an identified member of staff that they can talk to. This need not be the Designated Teacher but should be based on the child's own wishes
- ensure staff are informed, on a need to know basis, of any relevant information about the child
- co-ordinate any support that is necessary within the school
- encourage C in C to join in extra-curricular activities and out of school learning
- ensure, as far as possible, attendance at planning and review meetings
- ensure that every member of staff in school receives relevant training, and act as an advisor to staff and to Governors
- set up urgent meetings with relevant parties where the child is experiencing difficulties in school or is at risk of exclusion
- ensure the speedy transfer of information between individuals, agencies and - if the child changes school - to the new school.

THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF ALL STAFF

All our staff will:

- have high aspirations for the educational and personal achievement of all C in C in the school
- ensure that all C in C are supported sensitively
- respond positively to a child's request to be the named member of staff whom they can talk to when they feel it is necessary
- respond promptly to the Designated Teacher's requests for information
- work to enable all C in C to achieve stability and success within school
- promote the self-esteem of all C in C, maintain confidentiality and ensure that no C in C is stigmatised in any way.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE GOVERNING BODY

The Governing Body will:

- ensure that the school has a Designated Teacher, and that the Designated Teacher is enabled to carry out his/her responsibilities
- support everyone with responsibility for C in C in the school in ensuring that the needs of these children are recognised and met
- ensure that all Governors are fully aware of the legal requirements and Guidance on the education of C in C
- nominate a Governor to take special interest in this area of the school's work

RESPONSIBILITY OF THE NOMINATED GOVERNOR

The Nominated Governor will liaise with the Designated Teacher and report to the Governing Body on an annual basis:

- the number of Children in Care in school
- their attendance as a discreet group, compared to other students
- their end of key stage and predicted scores as a discreet group compared to other students
- the number of fixed term and permanent exclusions
- the destinations of students who leave the school.

The information for this report will be collected and reported in ways that preserve the anonymity, and respect the confidentiality of the students concerned.

The Nominated Governor will also ensure that the school's other policies and procedures give C in C equal access in respect of:

- admission to school – C in C are in the highest category for admission
- the national Curriculum and public examinations
- additional educational support where this is needed
- in conjunction with the child's social worker, ensure that a Personal Education Plan is completed within **20 working days** of the child joining the school
- in conjunction with the social worker ensure that the Personal Education Plan is reviewed every 6 months
- the National Curriculum and public examinations
- additional educational support where this is needed
- extra curricular activities
- work experience and careers guidance

TRAINING

- The Headteacher/ Designated Teacher / CPD Leader will ensure that all staff are briefed on the regulations and practice outlined in this policy and other relevant policies.

MANAGEMENT OF POLICY

- This policy was agreed and adopted at a Governors Meeting on: 4th October 2018
- The policy will be formally reviewed on: 2 yearly, summer term.