



HERNE VIEW CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

including Apple Orchard Pre-School

Children Looked After Policy

Review Date	Version No	Date of previous Review
July 2022	1	Version 4 – 14 October 2021 Carried forward from Greenfylde Church of England First School

Date approved by the Board	Chair	Signature
7 July 2022	Guy Adams	

Our Vision

Building for tomorrow, we share knowledge and foster aspirations through acceptance and welcome. We strive to strengthen our connection to the whole community through dignity and respect. Children are the heart of Herne View Primary and we celebrate the worth and uniqueness of all.

'...let your light shine.' Matthew 5:16

Care

Friendship

Respect



Herne View Church of England Primary School

Policy for Children Looked After

1. Introduction

Who are our Children Looked After (CLA)?

Children and young people become 'Looked After' either if they have been taken into Care by the local authority, or have been accommodated by the local authority (a voluntary care arrangement). Most CLA will be living in foster homes but a smaller number may be in a children's home, living with a relative or even be placed back at home with their natural parent(s). CLA will have a care manager who arranges their care plan.

The governing body of Herne View Church of England Primary School is committed to providing quality education for all its pupils, based on equality of opportunity, access and outcomes.

This governing body recognises that, nationally, there is considerable educational underachievement of Children Looked After, when compared with their peers, and is committed to implementing the principles and practice, as outlined in statutory Guidance. The Guidance places a duty to safeguard looked after children, to promote their educational achievements and to ensure that they are able to "achieve to and reach their full potential".

The Guidance recognises the collective responsibility of local authorities and schools to achieve good parenting and sets out six principles:

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

The Guidance introduced two key measures:

- To ensure Designated Teachers are nominated in every school
- To ensure Electronic Personal Education Plans (ePEPs) are in place for all Children Looked After
This governing body is committed to ensuring that Designated Teachers and staff are enabled to carry out their responsibilities effectively.

2. Role and Responsibility of the Designated Teacher

The Designated Teacher should:

- be an advocate for Children Looked After
- ensure a smooth and welcoming induction for the child and carer/s (and parent/s where possible). Note any specific requirements, including care status
- ensure that a Personal Education Plan is completed (within 20 days of entering care or joining a new school).

This should be prepared with the child and the carer/s (and parent/s if possible), in liaison with the social worker and other relevant support workers/agencies. Where appropriate, the ePEP should take account

of any special education need (provision map), Pastoral Support Plan (PSP), Individual Behaviour Plan (IBP), career plan or any other relevant plans.

The ePEP should inform and be reviewed

- ensure that each Children Looked After has an identified member of staff that they can talk to
- ensure entry to examinations as appropriate for all Children Looked After
- co-ordinate support for the child in the school and liaise with other professionals and carers as necessary
- ensure staff and governors receive relevant information and training
- ensure confidentiality for individual children and only share personal information on a need to know basis
- provide written information to assist planning/review meetings and ensure attendance as far as possible
- encourage Children Looked After to participate in extra-curricular activities and out of hours learning
- seek urgent meetings with relevant parties where the child is experiencing difficulties and/or is in danger of being excluded
- keep abreast of funding streams available to Children Looked After

3. Roles and Responsibilities of All Staff

All staff will:

- as with all children, have high aspirations and celebrate the educational and personal achievement of
- be familiar with the Guidance on Children Looked After and respond appropriately to requests for information to support the completion of PEPs and other documentation needed as part of review meetings
- liaise with the Designated Teacher where a Child Looked After is experiencing difficulty
- to contribute to the Vulnerable Pupil weekly meeting ensuring pupil wellbeing and achievement

4. Role and Responsibility of The Governing Body

The governing body of this school will:

- ensure all governors are fully aware of the legal requirements and Guidance for Children Looked After
- ensure that there is a named Designated Teacher for Children Looked After – Mrs Kerry Lewis
- nominate a governor who links with the Designated Teacher, receives regular progress reports and provides feedback to the governing body – Mr William Lucy
- for child protection and confidentiality reasons, ensure that information will be collected and reported in ways that preserve the anonymity, and respect the confidentiality of the pupils concerned
- review the effective implementation of this policy, preferably annually and at least every three years
- ensure that the school's other policies and procedures give looked after children equal access in respect of:
 - Admission to school
 - The National Curriculum and public examinations
 - Additional educational support where this is needed.
 - Extra-curricular activities
 - Work experience and careers guidance

5. Training

The Head Teacher and Designated Teacher will be responsible for ensuring all staff are briefed on the regulations and practice outlined in the statutory Guidance (as above). The Designated Teacher attends termly updates from the Virtual School.