



BLETCHINGLEY VILLAGE
PRIMARY SCHOOL

Aiming high • Working together • Achieving our best

Policy for Children in Care (CLA)

Children and young people become "in care" 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 CIC will be living with foster parents but a smaller number may be in children's residential units, living with a relative or even be placed at home with their birth parents.

Everyone at Bletchingley Village Primary School is committed to providing quality education for all its pupils, based on equality of access, opportunity and outcomes. We aim for every child, whatever their background or their circumstances, to have the support they need in order to:

- Be healthy
- Stay safe
- Enjoy and achieve
- Make a positive contribution
- Achieve economic well-being

We recognise that outcomes for Looked After Children are nationally much poorer than for those of their peers, and we are committed to implementing the principles and practice as outlined in

- DfEE Circular 0269/2000
- DfEE/DOH Guidance 2000
- Children Act 2004

"The duty to safeguard looked after children, to promote their educational achievements and to ensure they are able to achieve and reach their full potential"

This means in practice:

- Prioritising education;
- Having high expectations;
- Inclusion – changing and challenging attitudes;
- Achieving continuity and stability;
- Early intervention – priority action; and listening to children
- Careful and effective deployment of the Pupil Premium
- Close communication and collaboration with the relevant Virtual School

The 2000 Guidance introduced key measures, in order to improve multi-agency coordination and improve educational life chances for CIC. These are Designated Teachers for CIC and the use of a Personal Education Plan for each Child.

The governing body is committed to ensuring that the following roles and responsibilities are carried out effectively to in order to fulfil the school's duty towards these pupils.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The Head Teacher will:

- Appoint the **designated teacher**
- Ensure that the **designated teacher** has received appropriate training
- Oversee the development of the policy on looked after children
- Be responsible for all systems to support looked after children.
- Report to the governing body on an annual basis on the following:
 - the number of looked after pupils in the school
 - an analysis of test scores as a discrete group, compared to other pupils
 - the attendance of pupils, compared to other pupils
 - the level of fixed term and permanent exclusions, compared to other pupils
 - the number of complaints
 - the amount of Pupil Premium received and how it has been spent

The Governing Body will: -

- Ensure that the admission criteria and practice prioritises CIC according to the DfE Admissions Code of Practice
- Ensure all governors are fully aware of the legal requirements and guidance for CIC
- Ensure there is a designated teacher for CIC
- Liaise with the headteacher, designated teacher, and all other staff to ensure the needs of CIC are met
- Nominate a governor with responsibility for CLA who links with the designated teacher
- Receive regular reports from the designated teacher.
- Monitor the deployment of Pupil Premium and its impact
- Ensure that Pupil Premium is reported on via the school's website
- Ensure that the school's policies and procedures give CIC equal access in respect of
 - Admission to school
 - National Curriculum and examinations both academic and vocational
 - Out of school learning and extra-curricular activities
- Annually, review the effective implementation of the school policy for CIC

The Designated Teacher for CIC will: -

- Be an advocate for CIC
- Attend relevant training for CIC
- Act as the key liaison professional for other agencies and individuals in relation to CIC.
- Ensure that all CIC receive a positive reintegration on entering the school
- Ensure that all CIC have an appropriate Personal Education Plan and that it is completed within 20 days of joining the school or entering care.
- Maintain an up-to-date register, as required
- Convene an urgent multi professional meeting if a Looked After Child is experiencing difficulties or at risk of exclusion.
- Ensure confidentiality on individual children, sharing confidential/personal information on a need to know basis.
- Act as the key advisor for staff and governors on issues relevant to CIC.
- Ensure that care and school liaison is effective including invitations to meetings and other school events
- Actively encourage and promote out of hours learning and extra-curricular activities for CIC
- Ensure speedy transfer of information when a Looked After Child transfers into another educational placement.
- Contribute information to CIC reviews when required.
- Build positive home/school relationships between parent/carers with regular opportunities for dialogue.

All staff members and governors will:

- Have high expectations of the educational and personal achievements of CIC
- Positively promote the raising of a Looked After Child's self esteem
- Ensure any Looked After Child is supported sensitively and that confidentiality is maintained
- Be familiar with the Guidance on CIC and respond appropriately to requests for information to support Personal Education Plans, and review meetings
- Respond positively to the request to be a Looked After Child's named person
- Liaise with the designated teachers where a Looked After Child is experiencing difficulties
- Use exclusions as a last resort, in line with Northamptonshire's exclusion advice
- Contribute to regular liaison with social care colleagues and other appropriate professionals
- Keep appropriate records, confidentially as necessary, and make these available to other professionals as appropriate.
- Actively seek training to help fulfil their roles with regard to looked after children.