



# Fiddlers Lane

## Community Primary School

### **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 Fiddlers Lane Community Primary School are committed to promote the inclusion, well-being and achievement of all its Children in Care.**

**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.

### **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 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 the children's centre or is at risk of exclusion
  - ensure the speedy transfer of information between individuals, agencies and - if the child changes setting - to the new setting.
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- Ensure that there is a Personal Education Plan for each child/young person to include appropriate targets and above information. This must be compatible with the child's/young person's Care Plan and where applicable include any other school plan, e.g. Statement of Special Education Need, and associated plans, Transition Plan, Pastoral Support Programme.
  - Ensure that someone attends Looked After Children Reviews on each child/young person and/or always prepares a written report which promotes the continuity and stability of their education.
  - Liaise with the Education Support Service for Looked After Children on a regular basis with regard to the performance, attendance and attainment of C in C.
  - Ensure that if/when the child transfers school all relevant information is forwarded to the receiving school as a matter of priority.
  - Ensure that systems are in place to identify and prioritise when C in C are underachieving and have early interventions to improve this in line with existing school policy.
  - Ensure that systems are in place to keep staff up to date and informed about C in C where and when appropriate.
  - Ensure that C in C, along with all children are listened to and have equal opportunity to pastoral support in school.
  - Ensure that they keep the school up to date with current legislation and its implication for the school in respect of C in C.
  - Report to the Governing body annually on the performance of C in C who are on the roll of the school.

All governors and staff will:

- Support the local authority in its statutory duty to promote the educational achievement of C in C

## **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 our setting
- 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 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 setting'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 the 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 setting's other policies and procedures give C in C equal access in respect of:**

- 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

### **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**

The policy will be reviewed annually by the Governing Body.

The Designated Teacher

**Ms B Cohen**

**Tel : 0161 775 2490**

**Email : fiddlerslane.primaryschool@salford.gov.uk**

The Designated Governor:

**Mrs K Hindle**

Date:

Signed

Review:

