
Charters School

Looked After
Children Policy

Updated April 2011

Looked After Children Policy

Approved on 5 April 2011 Minute number 200/11

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Statutory or recommended? Statutory

Clerk to Governors to indicate where information is to be displayed

Website ✓ First Class ✓ Folder ✓

Approved by Curriculum committee

Policy for the education of Looked After Children / Children in Care (LAC / CiC)

Charters School believes that we have a special duty to safeguard and promote the education of Looked After Children / CiC. These are children who are looked after by RBWM and other authorities. (Guidance on Education of Children in Public Care.2000 Section 3 Paras. 3.2 and 3.3)

Aim

- To provide a safe and secure environment, which values education and believes in the abilities and potential of all children.
- For Looked After Children / CiC to achieve educational attainments in line with their peers.
- Identifying our schools' role as corporate parents to promote and support the education of our Looked After Children / CiC. Asking the question, 'Would this be good enough for my child?'

In pursuit of this policy the Headteacher and Governing Body will

- Designate a Nominated teacher for Looked After Children / CiC who will act as their advocate and coordinate support for them.

The nominated teacher will:

- Maintain a register of all Looked After Children / CiC. This will include a record of:
 1. The contact person in the Looked After Children / CiC Team within RBWM or other authorities.
 2. Status i.e. care order or accommodated.
 3. Type of Placement e.g. foster, respite, residential.
 4. Name of Social Worker, area office, telephone number.
 5. Daily contact and telephone numbers where appropriate e.g. name of young person, name of parent or carer or key worker in children's home.
 6. Share Child Protection / disability information as appropriate.
 7. Their academic progress via the Raising Attainment Team within RBWM or other authorities.
 8. Baseline information and all test results.
 9. Named officers in RBWM or other authorities with regard to exclusion issues, attendance issues and transition issues.
- Ensure that they contribute to a Personal Education Plan for each child to include appropriate targets. This is instigated and updated by the child's Social Services Care Plan and is integrated with other school plans as appropriate. E.g. Statement, Transition Plan, Pastoral Support Programme.
- Ensure that LAC / CiC nominated teacher or appropriate deputy attends Social Services Reviews on each child and/or always prepares a written report that promotes the continuity and stability of their education.
- Ensure that should a Looked After Child / CiC be identified at risk of exclusion then contact is made with the Looked After Children / CiC Team immediately to minimise this happening.
- Ensure that they participate in joint training.
- Ensure that on admission or transfer all relevant information is obtained or passed on.
- Ensure that systems are in place to identify and prioritise when Looked After Children are underachieving and have early interventions to improve this. Contact must be made with the Looked After Children / CiC Team as soon as concerns are raised.
- Ensure that systems are in place to keep staff up to date and informed about Looked After Children / CiC.
- Ensure that Looked After Children / CiC are listened to and have access to support and counselling in school.

All Governors and staff will:

- Work in partnership with parents and agencies.
- Support carers to value educational achievement and improve attendance.

- Recognise the achievements of Looked After Children / CiC.

Links with other Policies

- This policy links with a number of other school policies and documentation and it is important that Governors have regard to the needs of Looked After Children / CiC when reviewing them:
 - Oversubscription criteria in the Admissions Policy;
 - The School Code of Conduct;
 - Behaviour Policy, incorporating Anti-Bullying Policy;
 - Home School Agreement;
 - Equal Opportunities Policies;
 - Special Educational Needs Policy.

Equal Opportunities

- It is the responsibility of all staff to ensure (as far as is reasonably practicable) that Looked After Children / CiC needs are taken seriously and given appropriate priority.

Monitoring and Evaluation

- The nominated teacher will report to governors and RBWM Virtual School Assistant Headteacher on the achievements of Looked After Children / CiC. This will include, where age appropriate: SATs results, attendance figures, exclusion issues, changes in home placements, reviews and interventions to raise achievement.
- This should include intervention strategies such as study support, learning mentor support, home school contracts, Pastoral Support Plans, referrals to the Looked After Children / CiC Team, counselling support, etc.
- The report should also include information about non-academic progress in extra curricular activities, as seen on the PEP
- The Governing body will monitor and evaluate the progress made by individuals and all the children using the same criteria used for other children in the peer group.
- The school will also report on Looked After Children / CiC as part of the joint review.