



Blatchington Mill School

Blatchington Mill School Policy for the Education of Children in Care

Date Policy Created:

Date of Last Amendment: December 2016

Date to be Reviewed: Currently Under Review



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1. Policy Creation

Initiated:

Groups Consulted:

Governors
Staff

Date Reviewed:

December 2016

Audience

Parents
Staff
Governors

Policy located:

Portal (Staff and Parents)

Policy Format:

Full

Lead Member of Staff:

Jason King



2. Policy Statement

Nationally, children in care significantly underachieve and are at greater risk of exclusion and of becoming NEET compared with their peers. Blatchington Mill School has a major part to play in ensuring that children in care are enabled to be healthy, stay safe, enjoy, achieve, make a positive contribution to society and achieve economic well-being, in line with Every Child Matters.

Helping children in care to succeed and providing a better future for them is a key priority for East/West Sussex/Brighton and Hove and other LAs. This policy takes account of:

- The County Council's duty under Section 52 of the Children Act 2004 to promote the educational achievement of Looked After Children (LAC).
- Promoting the Education of Looked After Children : Statutory guidance for local authorities July 2014
- The Education (Admission of Looked After Children) (England) Regulations 2006.
- Relevant DfES guidance to Governing Bodies (*Supporting Looked After Learners: A Practical Guide for School Governors*).

Blatchington Mill School's approach to supporting the educational achievement of Children in Care is based on the following principles:

- Prioritising education.
 - Promoting attendance.
 - Targeting support.
 - Having high expectations.
 - Promoting inclusion through challenging and changing attitudes.
 - Achieving stability and continuity.
 - Early intervention and priority action.
 - Listening to children.
 - Promoting health and wellbeing.
 - Reducing exclusions and promoting stability.
 - Working in partnership with carers, social workers and other professionals.
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- Protocol for CIC 2016-2017 (CIC on role 10)
 - Each student has £1900 budget, £500 devolved directly to the school.
 - £500 per child per year (April to April) is ring fenced in the school budget.
 - Any support beyond the core £500 is applied through PEP and actioned by SW via Virtual School.
 - A PEP meeting must be held every term and is set up SW/AYTL.
 - PEP paperwork must be circulated and completed prior to the PEP.



3. Implications

As for all our pupils, Blatchington Mill School is committed to helping every Child in Care to achieve the highest standards they can, including supporting aspirations to achieve in further and higher education. This can be measured by improvement in their achievements and attendance.

The Governing Body of Blatchington Mill School is committed to providing quality education for all pupils and will:

- Ensure Children in Care are prioritised in the school's oversubscription criteria, in line with the Education (Admission of Looked After Children) (England) Regulations 2006. (These require admissions authorities to give top priority for admission to CIC in their oversubscription criteria.
- Ensure a Designated Teacher for Children in Care is identified and enabled to carry out the responsibilities set out below
- Ensure a Personal Education Plan is put in place, implemented and regularly reviewed every term for every Child in Care, in line with Brighton and Hove guidance on Personal Education Plans.
- Identify a governor as Designated Governor for Children in Care.

The school will champion the needs of Children in Care, raise awareness and challenge negative stereotypes about them, in order to ensure that they achieve to the highest level possible.



4. Children in Care School Policy Attachments

4.1 Responsibility of the Headteacher

- Identify a Designated Teacher for Children in Care, whose role is set out below. It is essential that another appropriate person is identified quickly should the Designated Teacher leave the school or take sick leave.
- Ensure that procedures are in place to monitor the admission, progress, attendance and any exclusion of Children in Care and take action where progress, conduct or attendance is below expectations.
- Report on the progress, attendance and conduct of Children in Care. OFSTED now select a number of Children in Care, tracking their results and the support they have received.
- Ensure that staff in school receive relevant training and are aware of their responsibilities under this policy and related guidance.

4.2 Responsibility of the Governing Body

- Identify a nominated Governor for Children in Care.
- Ensure that all Governors are fully aware of the legal requirements and guidance on the education of Children in Care.
- Ensure the school has an overview of the needs and progress of Children in Care.

4.3 Procedures: the Governing Body will:

- Oversee the academic progress of Children in Care, through an annual report (see below).
- Ensure that Children in Care are given top priority when applying for places in accordance with the school's oversubscription criteria.
- Work to prevent exclusions and reduce time out of school, by ensuring the school implements policies and procedures to ensure Children in Care achieve and enjoy their time at the school, by recognising the extra problems caused by excluding them and by not excluding them except as a last resort.
- Ensure that the school has a Designated Teacher, and that the Designated Teacher is enabled to carry out his or her responsibilities as below.
- Support the Headteacher, the Designated Teacher and other staff in ensuring that the needs of Children in Care are recognised and met.
- Receive a report once a year setting out:

1. The number of looked-after pupils on the school's roll (if any).
2. Their attendance, as a discreet group, compared to other pupils.
3. Progress data as a summary report for KS3/4 and 5
4. The number of fixed term and permanent exclusions (if any).
5. The destinations of pupils who leave the school.
6. The information for this report should be collected and reported in ways that preserve the anonymity and respect the confidentiality of the pupils concerned.



4.4 The role of the Designated Teacher

Government Guidance says that the Designated Teacher should be “someone with sufficient authority to make things happen...[who] should be an advocate for Children in Care, assessing services and support, and ensuring that the school shares and supports high expectations for them.”

Governors should be aware that all schools are already required to have a designated teacher for Children in Care. It is strongly recommended that this person should be a member of the Senior Management Team. Training for Designated Teachers has been and will continue to be available through the Virtual School Brighton and Hove. Governors should also be aware that OFSTED will focus on Children in Care, monitoring how the School has promoted their inclusion and attainment and the effectiveness of joint working with other services involved with them.

Our Designated Teacher will:

- Ensure a welcome and smooth induction for the child and their carer, using the Personal Education Plan to plan for that transition in consultation with the child’s social worker and VSB&H.
- Ensure that a Personal Education Plan is completed by the AYTL with the child, the social worker, the foster carer and any other relevant people termly.
- Ensure that each Child in Care 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. *Members of staff who take on this role may need to be supported by someone from the school’s pastoral staff. They should also be alert to any child protection issues, any disclosures that pupils may make, and know what action to take. The deputy designated teacher is also the deputy delegated safeguard lead.*
- Track academic progress and target support appropriately
- Co-ordinate any support for the child in care that is necessary within school.
- Ensure confidentiality for individual pupils, sharing personal information on a need to know basis.
- Encourage children in care to join in extra-curricular activities and out of school learning.
- Ensure, as far as possible, attendance at planning and review meetings.
- Act as an advisor to staff and Governors, raising their awareness of the needs of Children in Care.
- Set up timely meetings with relevant parties where the pupil is experiencing difficulties in school or is at risk of exclusion.
- Ensure the speedy transfer of information between individuals, agencies and – if the pupil changes school – to a new school.
- Be pro-active in supporting transition and planning when moving to a new phase in education.
- Track academic progress and target support appropriately.
- Promote inclusion in all areas of school life.
- Be aware that a high number Children in Care say they are bullied, so will actively monitor and prevent bullying in school by raising awareness through the school’s anti-bullying policy.
- Raise awareness in secondary schools that Children in Care are automatically entitled to an allowance (the Bursary) if they go into the sixth form.



4.5 The responsibility of all staff

All our staff will:

- Have high aspirations for the educational and personal achievement of Children in Care, as for all pupils.
- Maintain confidentiality with regard to children in care and ensure they are supported sensitively.
- Respond positively to a pupil'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 Children in Care to achieve stability and success within school.
- Promote the self-esteem of all Children in Care.
- Have an understanding of the key issues that affect the learning of Children in Care.
- Be aware that many children in care say they are bullied so work to prevent bullying in line with the School's policy.

This policy was agreed and adopted at a Governors' Meeting held on *date*:

The policy will be formally reviewed on *date*:

The Headteacher / the Designated Teacher / the Staff Development Officer *as appropriate for your own school* will ensure that all staff are briefed on the regulations and practice outlined in this policy.

Advice and support is available from Virtual School Brighton and Hove. www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/content/children-and-education/local-offer/virtual-school-children-care