

## DESIGNATED TEACHER FOR LOOKED-AFTER AND PREVIOUSLY LOOKED-AFTER CHILDREN

This is a 'Required' Policy, overseen by the Teaching and Learning Committee

**Date of last review:** January 2020

**Policy developed by:** Teacher, Governors and the School Pupil Council

**Review Cycle:** Every three years (Required)

**Next review date:** January 2023

This policy supports the school's vision by providing clear direction on the need to equip all children, whatever their backgrounds, with the skills and understanding required to secure personal development and fulfilment. As a school we celebrate learning and achievement in all its forms, for all children.

The school's Christian values of respect, compassion and hope are demonstrated in this policy in the following ways;

- Children in Care have priority on admission
- The Policy sets a framework requiring school to work in partnership with all relevant bodies to secure positive outcomes for children in public care
- Children in public care receive prioritised expenditure when attainment or progress is a cause for concern (e.g. additional tuition)
- The Policy provides for the continuous monitoring of progress, and allows for additional support to be provided if intended outcomes are not met.

### **A Biblical Perspective: Luke 18:15**

"People were also bringing babies to Jesus for him to place his hands on them. When the disciples saw this, they rebuked them. But Jesus called the children to him and said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it."

## **INTRODUCTION**

The governing body of North Nibley C of E (VA) Primary recognises that, nationally, there is considerable educational underachievement of children in public care, when compared with their peers and is committed to implementing the principles and practice as outlined in DfEE Circular 0269/2000 and DfEE/DoH Guidance on the Education of Children and Young People in Public Care 2000

The DfEE/DoH guidance introduced two key measures in order to improve

- a) multi-agency co-ordination,
- b) educational achievement of children in public care.

They were:

- The appointment of a designated teacher in every school, and
- Each child in public care to have a Personal Education Plan.

This governing body is committed to ensuring that the designated teacher and whole staff group are enabled to carry out their responsibilities effectively.

## **ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITY OF THE DESIGNATED TEACHER**

The Designated Teacher for Children in Care should be a senior member of staff with sufficient authority to influence school policy and practice. The named teacher in this school is Paul Batchelor.

1. The Designated Teacher will:

- a) Be an advocate for all children in this school who are in public care;
- b) Ensure confidentiality for individual children and only share personal information on a need to know basis;
- c) Respond to the social worker initiating the Personal Education Plan by ensuring the drawing together of the required information, co-ordinating the plan's delivery and monitoring and reviewing its effectiveness;
- d) Ensure the child, carer/s, social worker and other relevant parties receive early notification of school based meetings, parents evening and other events and that communication, both written and verbal, remains regular and relevant.
- e) Provide written information to assist planning/review meetings and make every effort to attend ;
- f) Co-ordinate support for individual children in school, monitor educational progress and liaise with other professionals and carers as necessary;
- g) Inform the responsible social worker of any major decisions affecting the child;
- h) Inform the responsible social worker when a child in public care is absent from school without notification;
- i) Inform the carer/social worker and the LA of any fixed term or permanent exclusions;
- j) Promote the involvement of children in public care in school clubs and extra-curricular activities;
- k) Ensure staff receive relevant information and training and act as an advisor to staff and governors;
- l) Attend relevant training and cascade to school staff, where appropriate.

## **ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF ALL STAFF**

2. The school staff will:

- a) Ensure any child in public care is sensitively supported and that confidentiality is maintained;
- b) Be familiar with the DfEE/DoH Guidance on Children and Young People in Public Care and have high aspirations for the educational and personal achievements of children in public care
- c) Respond appropriately to requests for information to support the completion of Personal Education Plans and other documentation needed as part of review meetings;
- d) Respond to the designated teacher's requests for information on educational attainment and needs, as appropriate;
- e) Provide a supportive climate in school, enabling children in public care to achieve stability.

## **ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITY OF THE GOVERNING BODY**

3. The governing body will:

- a) Ensure all governors are fully aware of the legal requirements and the DfEE/DoH Guidance on the Education of Children and Young people in Public Care (via the 'Reference Documents' area of our 'cloud' account);
- b) Ensure there is a named Designated Teacher for children in public care and that s/he is enabled to carry out his/her responsibilities in relation to children in public care;
- c) Nominate a governor who links with the Designated Teacher and who reports to the governing body on an annual basis;
  - o The number of children in public care in the school (without detail or name);
  - o The educational attainment as a discrete group, compared with that of other pupils;
  - o The attendance of pupils as a discrete group, compared to other pupils;
  - o Any fixed term/permanent exclusions;
- d) Support the Headteacher, Designated Teacher and other staff in ensuring the needs of children in public care are met, including consideration of the information details in 3c.
- e) The named governor should be satisfied that the school's policies and procedures ensure that children in public care have equal access to;
  - The National Curriculum;
  - Public examinations;
  - Careers guidance;
  - Extra curricular activities;
  - Work experience;
  - Additional educational support.

## **REVIEW**

This policy will be reviewed as to its effective implementation every 3 years, or on the occasion of any child in public care joining the school.

Annual report on Children In Care

2019

The number of children in public care in the school (without detail or name);	0
The educational attainment as a discrete group, compared with that of other pupils;	N/A
The attendance of pupils as a discrete group, compared to other pupils;	N/A
Any fixed term/permanent exclusions;	N/A

Signed\_\_\_\_P Batchelor \_\_\_\_ (Designated Teacher)

Reporting date

December 2019