



'Cared For Children' Policy

Nationally, 'Cared for Children' significantly underachieve and are at greater risk of exclusion compared with their peers. Staff at Woodcocks' Well have a major part to play in ensuring that any 'Cared For Children' on role 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.

This policy takes account of:

Cheshire East County Council's duty under Section 52 of the Children Act 2004 to promote the educational achievement of Cared For Children (CFC).

The Education (Admission of Looked After Children) (England) Regulations 2006. Relevant DCSF guidance to Governing Bodies (*Supporting Looked After Learners: A Practical Guide for School Governors*).

Our approach to supporting the educational achievement of Cared For Children is based on the following principles:

- ✓ Promoting children's safety, health and well-being
- ✓ Working in partnership with Carers, social workers and other professionals
- ✓ Promoting attendance
- ✓ Prioritizing education
- ✓ Targeting support
- ✓ Having high expectations
- ✓ Promoting inclusion by challenging and changing attitudes of the school community where necessary
- ✓ Achieving stability and continuity
- ✓ Early intervention
- ✓ Listening to children
- ✓ Reducing exclusions and promoting stability

As for all our children, Woodcocks' Well is committed to helping every 'cared for' child 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.

Role of the Governing Body

The Governing Body of Woodcocks' Well is committed to providing quality education for all pupils and will:

- ◆ ensure Cared For Children are prioritized 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 LAC in their oversubscription criteria. Faith schools must give first priority to LAC of their faith ahead of other applicants, and are permitted to give priority to all LAC, regardless of faith).
- ◆ Ensure a Designated Teacher for Cared For Children is identified and enabled to carry out the responsibilities set out below
- ◆ Ensure a Personal Education Plan (PEP) is put in place, implemented and regularly reviewed for every Cared For Child, in line with Cheshire East's guidance on Personal Education Plans.
- ◆ Ensure there is a Designated Governor for Cared for Children.

- ◆ Monitor the progress of CFC towards meeting their targets; making effective use of Pupil Premium to support good to rapid progress.

This policy links with a number of other school policies and it is important that Governors have regard to the needs of Cared For Children when reviewing them:

- ◆ Oversubscription criteria.
- ◆ The School Code of Conduct.
- ◆ Behaviour Policy.
- ◆ Home School Agreement.
- ◆ Anti-bullying Policy.
- ◆ Equality and Diversity Statement
- ◆ Safeguarding Children Policy.
- ◆ Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Policy.

The school will champion the needs of Cared For Children, raise awareness and challenge negative stereotypes about them, in order to ensure that they achieve to their potential.

Role of the Head Teacher / Designated Teacher

- ◆ Identify a Designated Teacher for Cared For Children, 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.

Note: The Head Teacher is currently this designated teacher

- ◆ Ensure that procedures are in place to monitor the admission, progress, attendance and any exclusions of Cared For Children and take action where progress, conduct or attendance is below expectations.
- ◆ Report on the progress, attendance and conduct of Cared For Children.
- ◆ Ensure that staff in school receive relevant training and are aware of their responsibilities under this policy and related guidance.

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
- ◆ It is the responsibility of the child's social worker to complete and update the child's PEP in time for review meetings. The social worker should request an update of the section regarding education from the school. The designated teacher will ensure that the education Section is accurate and completed in time for PEP reviews.
- ◆ Ensure that each Cared For Child 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.
- ◆ Track academic progress and target support appropriately
- ◆ Co-ordinate any support for any Cared For Children that is necessary within school.
- ◆ Ensure confidentiality for individual pupils, sharing personal information on a need to know basis.
- ◆ Promote inclusion in all areas of school life where appropriate. Encourage Cared For Children to join in extra-curricular activities and out of school learning.
- ◆ Ensure, as far as possible, attendance at PEP review meetings.
- ◆ Act as an advisor to staff and Governors, raising their awareness of the needs of Cared For Children and provide an annual report to Governors.
- ◆ Set up timely meetings with relevant parties where the pupil is experiencing difficulties in school or is at risk of exclusion. (Liaise with the school's Inclusion Manager)

- ◆ 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.
- ◆ Be aware that 60% of Cared For Children say they are bullied, so will actively monitor and prevent bullying in school by raising awareness through the school's anti-bullying policy.

The Role of all Staff

All our staff will:

- ◆ Have high aspirations for the educational and personal achievement of Cared For Children, as for all pupils.
- ◆ Maintain Cared For Children's confidentiality 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 Cared For Children to achieve stability and success within school.
- ◆ Promote the self-esteem of all Cared For Children.
- ◆ Have an understanding of the key issues that affect the learning of Cared For Children.
- ◆ Be aware that 60% of Cared For Children say they are bullied so work to prevent bullying in line with the School's policy.

Signed:Head Teacher

Date: January 2016

Signed.....Safeguarding Governor

Review date: January 2018