



Calmore Infant School
Looked After Child Policy

Approved FGB Sept 2017
Review Sept 2019

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Looked after children Policy

STATEMENT OF INTENT

At Calmore Infant School we teach children the values, attitudes and skills which foster mutual respect and caring towards others, creating an effective and caring school. We recognise that all pupils are entitled to a broad-based curriculum and our aim is to promote the educational achievement and welfare of all pupils in public care. The school welcomes Looked After Children.

DEFINITION

Looked After is a term that refers to children for whom the Local Authority is sharing parental responsibility. This can happen either with parental agreement or when a court makes a Care Order. The child may be living with foster carers, in a residential unit, with family members or sometimes with their parents. Calmore Infant School recognises that Looked After Children may have very specific needs and may be coping with trauma, abuse or rejection and are likely to experience personal distress and uncertainty.

We also recognise that nationally Looked After Children significantly underachieve and are at greater risk of exclusion compared with their peers. Their academic and social progress is likely to be affected by their experiences and compounded by instability in their personal circumstances. Statistics suggest that 75% of these children leave school with no formal qualifications and only 12% go on to further education compared with 68% of the general population.

As such the school is committed to helping Looked After Children succeed and to providing a better future for them.

OUR APPROACH

Calmore Infant School's approach to encouraging and supporting the educational achievement of looked after children is based on the following principles.

- Listening to the looked after children
- Working closely with home, voluntary and statutory agencies.
- Promoting attendance, through a programme of early intervention, priority action, reducing exclusions and promoting stability within a positive learning environment.
- Identifying need and targeting support in school with ELSA/ Nurture
- Accessing resources from other agencies as well as provision from other sources.
- Having high expectations.

DESIGNATED STAFF

The Designated Teachers at this school are Nicola Cowcher, Heateacher and Sarah Willes, Deputy Headteacher their duties will include:-

- Ensuring that looked after children are welcomed into the school, necessary meetings are held and arrangements are put in place to ensure their needs are identified and met.
- Maintaining an up to date record and ensuring all necessary information is passed to other staff.
- Monitoring and tracking progress and intervening if there is evidence of underachievement.
- Liaising with other appropriate staff in the school.
- Establishing and maintaining regular contact with home, statutory and voluntary agencies.
- Ensuring a personal education plan (PEP) is initiated, costed and reviewed regularly and information is passed to all those concerned, including the LA.
- Attending training as required.
- Creating a close working relationship between home and school working towards developing a strong partnership with parents/carers and care workers. This will include working with all appropriate agencies.
- Provide information to governors about the number of Looked After Children on roll, their attendance, their attainment and progress and their number of exclusions (if any).
- The safeguarding Governor also holds the remit to ensure the school carries out its statutory responsibilities.

All staff have the responsibility to have high aspirations for Looked After Children and to promote their self-esteem.

RACIAL EQUALITY AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES STATEMENT

All children have equal access and inclusive rights to the curriculum regardless of their gender, race, disability or ability. Work is differentiated for the performance of all groups and individuals where necessary. Calmore Infant School is committed to creating a positive climate that will enable everyone to work free from racial intimidation and harassment and achieve their full potential.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Success of this policy is monitored by the Executive Headteacher, Heads of School, all staff and the Governing Body. The policy will be reviewed biannually.