

Cam Hopton Church of England Primary School (Voluntary Aided)

Life in All its Fullness

Looked After Children (Children in Care) Policy

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This policy will be reviewed in line with other related policies and any other documentation from the DfE, Ofsted and Gloucestershire Diocese.

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Rationale

It is recognised that Looked After Children (LAC) – who often prefer to be referred to as Children in Care (CiC) - are the most vulnerable group in our society and our schools. They are often living with the effects of trauma and loss and have had to cope with disruption in both their living arrangements and schooling. These experiences can mean there are barriers to learning. All Looked After Children have the right to receive a quality full time education which matches their needs and enables them to *be the best they can be*. This policy sets out how Cam Hopton CE Primary School supports the learning and development of Looked After Children, despite their early experiences.

Aims:

- To ensure that school policies and procedures are followed for LAC as for all children;
- Having high aspirations for LAC;
- Ensure a personalised curriculum approach is taken in order to meet an individual child/young person's needs, making all reasonable adjustments to achieve this and ensuring the curriculum is broad and balanced;
- Promote early intervention when necessary to minimise risk of exclusion or reduced attendance;
- Work with all agencies, particularly the Virtual School, to ensure relevant support is sought to support LAC in the school;
- Use all appropriate funding mechanisms e.g. pupil premium, to accelerate progress;
- Ensure Personal Education Plans are up to date and completed in order to support the education of LAC;
- Promote where possible LAC to participate in decisions around education;
- Offer opportunities to join in school life including clubs, trips and activities.

Definition of Children in Care

- Children and young people who are subject to interim or full care orders under section 31 of the Children Act 1989;
- Children and young people who are voluntarily accommodated under section 20 of the Children Act 1989;
- Children and young people who are accommodated for their protection by the courts or remanded into care by the courts. Children and young people will be looked after by a local authority other than the authority in which this school sits. Therefore, this school may have Looked After Children who are living in the local authority's area but looked after by another authority e.g. Bristol, Gloucester etc;
- Parental responsibility is shared with social care when children are subject to interim or full care orders. Parents retain parental responsibility if a child or young person is voluntarily looked after under section 20.

Admissions

Cam Hopton's Admissions Policy prioritises LAC for admissions and children who are previously looked after and now adopted or with carers under special guardianship/residency orders.

The school will work closely with other Schools and authorities to ensure no delays are encountered for LAC being admitted.

Suspensions & Exclusions

This school recognises that LAC are particularly vulnerable to suspension/exclusion due to the trauma and loss they have experienced, affecting their ability to engage in the school setting. Should a Looked After Child become at risk of fixed term suspension or permanent exclusion the school will alert the Virtual School immediately and work with all agencies to try and avoid this. Cam Hopton's behaviour policy reflects the standard of behaviour expected from all children, however the school will work flexibly and proactively to ensure LAC are not excluded where at all possible.

The Designated Teacher

The role of Designated Teacher is a statutory role within the school. This person will be a qualified teacher and will be a senior person with the school setting. This member of staff will be responsible for:

- Being an advocate for the child in school;
- Be responsible for ensuring statutory duties of the school are carried out e.g. report to governors; ensuring the Personal Education Plan is up to date;
- Know who the LAC, are in school and hold confidential up to date records;
- Be the liaison for agencies, carers, social workers and Virtual School staff around educational needs of the LAC;
- Attend relevant meetings including the statutory looked after reviews and personal education planning meetings or designate an appropriate replacement;
- Be the key person in school or ensure the LAC has a key person in school so that the child's wishes and feelings are heard;
- Actively monitor the attainment and progress of LAC and intervene early where appropriate;
- Ensure that training on the needs of LAC is up to date;
- Be the point of contact for other schools for transitions at key times, e.g. year 6 to 7, outward transfers;
- Ensure that all funding available to support LAC education is used effectively;
- Ensure that the Virtual School is in receipt of teacher assessment data at required points in the year and any other statutory data collection on LAC is completed;
- Co-ordinate with the SENCO if the LAC has SEND;

Record Keeping

LAC in the school should have a Personal Education Plan (PEP) within 20 days of becoming looked after. If a child moves to this school as a LAC, then an up to date PEP should be part of the record exchange from previous educational settings.

LAC in the school should have a confidential file which will hold relevant information to support the child or young person in the educational setting.

Should a LAC have to leave the school, the Designated Teacher will ensure that information and records are forwarded, and contact is made with the Designated Teacher of the receiving School.

Partnership Working

The school will proactively work with the Virtual School, Social Care, parents/foster carers and all other agencies to support the education of the LAC at Cam Hopton.

Governing Bodies

The School's Governing Body will appoint a Governor with specific responsibility for LAC in the School. This Governor will receive a report on the progress and attainment of the LAC in the School. Confidentiality requires this report not to contain named children and the report will not be published as a public document. This Governor will ensure that the allocated funding (LAC Pupil Premium) to support LAC in the School is spent appropriately.

Cam Hopton CE Primary School is committed to equality, safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

This school aims to serve the community by providing high quality education and promoting Christian Values.