



Looked After Children Policy

At James Brindley School we recognise that there is, nationally, considerable educational underachievement of children in residential and foster care and we are committed to implementing the principals and practice, as outlined in DFEE Circular 0269/2000 and DfEE/DOH Guidance 2000. Also "The Role and Responsibilities of the Designated Teacher for Looked After Children: Statutory Guidance for School Governors (DCSF-01046-02009) and Children and Young Persons Act 2008 (The 2008 Act). The Guidance introduced two key measures, in order to improve multi-agency co-ordination and improve the educational life chances for children in public care:

- Designated Teachers for every school
- Personal Educational Plans for all children in public care.

The policy relates to pupils referred to James Brindley for long term placements only.

AIMS

- To prioritise education for looked after children
- To have high expectations and raise achievement
- To provide continuity and stability

OBJECTIVES

- To ensure that Pupil Premium funds are targeted to ensure best outcomes.
- To ensure that any child in public care is supported sensitively and that confidentiality is maintained
- To ensure that no child in public care is stigmatised in any way
- To provide a supportive climate to enable a child in public care to achieve stability within the school setting
- To have high aspirations for the educational and personal achievement of children in public care
- To promote positively the self esteem of children in public care
- To ensure access to resources/ support through LACES/ Social workers

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PROCESSES

- The Designated Teacher(DT) will keep a central register of all long term children at James Brindley School who are in public care, ensure that the Personal Education Plans are in place, ensure that termly attendance figures are returned to the LA and that the reporting procedures are adhered to.
- The DT will meet and have required information for the LACES Outreach Worker termly.
- All sectors with long term pupils have a named member of staff which will be the Head of Sector (HoS)
- The HoS will inform the DT as soon as the child enters the school
- The HoS will ensure that the procedures as outlined in the attached guidelines are adhered to.
- The HoS informs their administrative support and CMIS will be updated immediately.

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EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

The school is committed to working towards equality of opportunity in all aspects of provision. In this context, particular emphasis will be given to the need to provide adequately for pupils in public care. In addition this policy should be read in conjunction with the SEN policy and the Equalities Act 2010.

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MONITORING AND EVALUATION

The Designated Teacher in conjunction with Heads of Education will monitor the effectiveness of the policy

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- There will be a nominated governor who will link with the Designated Teacher and will receive reports and then report back to the governing body. These reports should not include any names for child protection and confidentiality reasons
- The governing body will review the effectiveness of the policy, as appropriate and at least every three years.

—Appendix 1

GUIDELINES TO ACCOMPANY THE LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN POLICY

- Every sector with long term pupils will have a named member of staff responsible for and an advocate for children in care.
- When a Looked After child enters the school or becomes Looked After, the HoS will inform the Designated Teacher (DT).
- The HoS will ensure a smooth and welcome induction for the child and carer, and note any specific requirements including care status.
- An environmental support plan will be completed informing all staff that a pupil is a pupil premium child. Targeted interventions will be put in place to address only groups of an academic or social and emotional.
- The HoS should ensure that a Personal Education Plan is completed by the social worker (at least within 20 days of entering care or within the first half term when joining James Brindley School). This should be prepared with the child and the carer, in liaison with the social worker and other relevant agencies. Where appropriate the PEP should take account of the Individual Education Plan and career plan. The PEP should inform and be reviewed concurrently with the IEP. The DT monitors this half termly.
- The HoS will keep PEPs and other records up to date, particularly in time to inform review meetings.
- By the end of the third month in care, the NMS will ensure that baseline assessment form is completed and returned to the Teacher Adviser for Children in Public Care.
- The HoS will co-ordinate support for the child in the school and liaise with other professionals and carers as necessary.
- The HoS will provide written information to assist planning/review meetings and ensure attendance as far as possible.
- The HoS will ensure that the child and carer(s) receive early notification of meetings, parents meetings and other events and that communication remains regular and positive.
- The HoS will encourage the child to participate in extra-curricular activities and out of hours learning, where feasible.
- The HoS will ensure speedy transfer of information between individuals and other relevant agencies and to a new school if and when the child transfers.
- The HoS will seek urgent meetings with relevant parties where the child is experiencing difficulties.
- Where a pupil does not engage with JBS, referral to ESS and the Principal who will refer to the pupil connect team.
- The DT will co-ordinate and ensure that all deadlines are met with.

