



# GREENFYLDE CHURCH OF ENGLAND FIRST SCHOOL

*including Sunny Ile and Cygnets Pre-School*



## **Policy: Children Looked After**

**Date of review: October 2021**

**Version number: 4**

**Date of last review: March 19**

**Changes from last review: Extension to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2022**

Signature:

Print Name: Guy Adams

Position: Chair of Governors

Date: Oct 21

### ***Our Vision***

*Our doors are open – everyone is welcome in Greenfylde C of E First School. As a school community we seek through shared service to support children, families and wider community; encouraging high expectation, hope and support for aspirations and an understanding that all deserve to receive and give respect and dignity.*

*'...life in all its fullness' John 10:10*

*Caring*



*Thankful*

**GREENFYLDE CHURCH OF ENGLAND FIRST SCHOOL**

## **Policy for Children Looked After**

### **ETHOS**

Recognising its historic foundation, the school will preserve and develop its religious character in accordance with the principles of the Church at parish and diocesan level. The school aims to serve its community by providing education of the highest quality within the context of Christian belief and practice. It encourages an understanding of the meaning of faith and promotes Christian values through the experience it offers pupils. The ethos of the school promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, emotional, social and academic progress of every child. We strive for a safe, secure and positive learning environment, in which all learners can thrive.

### **INTRODUCTION**

Who are our Children Looked After? Children and young people become 'Looked After' either if they have been taken into Care by the local authority, or have been accommodated by the local authority (a voluntary care arrangement). Most CLA will be living in foster homes but a smaller number may be in a children's home, living with a relative or even be placed back at home with their natural parent(s). CLA will have a care manager who arranges their care plan. The governing body of Greenfylde C of E First School is committed to providing quality education for all its pupils, based on equality of opportunity, access and outcomes. This governing body recognises that, nationally, there is considerable educational underachievement of Children Looked After, when compared with their peers, and is committed to implementing the principles and practice, as outlined in statutory Guidance. The Guidance places a duty to safeguard looked after children, to promote their educational achievements and to ensure that they are able to "achieve to and reach their full potential".

The Guidance recognises the collective responsibility of local authorities and schools to achieve good parenting and sets out six principles:

- prioritising education
- having high expectations review
- inclusion – changing and challenging attitudes
- achieving continuity and stability • early intervention – priority action
- listening to children

The Guidance introduced two key measures:

- To ensure Designated Teachers are nominated in every school
- To ensure Personal Education Plans (PEPs) are in place for all Children Looked After This governing body is committed to ensuring that Designated Teachers and staff are enabled to carry out their responsibilities effectively.

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

The Designated Teacher should:

- be an advocate for Children Looked After
- ensure a smooth and welcoming induction for the child and carer/s (and parent/s where possible).

Note any specific requirements, including care status

- ensure that a Personal Education Plan is completed (within 20 days of entering care or joining a new school).

This should be prepared with the child and the carer/s (and parent/s if possible), in liaison with the social worker and other relevant support workers/agencies. Where appropriate, the PEP should take account of any Individual Educational Plan (IEP), Pastoral Support Plan (PSP), Individual Behaviour Plan (IBP), career plan or any other relevant plans.

The PEP should inform and be reviewed

- ensure that each Children Looked After has an identified member of staff that they can talk to
- ensure entry to examinations as appropriate for all Children Looked After
- co-ordinate support for the child in the school and liaise with other professionals and carers as necessary
- ensure staff and governors receive relevant information and training
- ensure confidentiality for individual children and only share personal information on a need to know basis
- provide written information to assist planning/review meetings and ensure attendance as far as possible
- encourage Children Looked After to participate in extra-curricular activities and out of hours learning
- seek urgent meetings with relevant parties where the child is experiencing difficulties and/or is in danger of being excluded
- keep abreast of funding streams available to Children Looked After

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

- as with all children, have high aspirations and celebrate the educational and personal achievement of
- be familiar with the Guidance on Children Looked After and respond appropriately to requests for information to support the completion of PEPs and other documentation needed as part of review meetings
- liaise with the Designated Teacher where a Child Looked After is experiencing difficulty
- to contribute to the Vulnerable Pupil weekly meeting ensuring pupil wellbeing and achievement

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

The governing body of this school will:

- ensure all governors are fully aware of the legal requirements and Guidance for Children Looked After
- ensure that there is a named Designated Teacher for Children Looked After – Mrs Kerry Lewis
- nominate a governor who links with the Designated Teacher, receives regular progress reports and provides feedback to the governing body – Mr William Lucy
- for child protection and confidentiality reasons, ensure that information will be collected and reported in ways that preserve the anonymity, and respect the confidentiality of the pupils concerned
- review the effective implementation of this policy, preferably annually and at least every three years
- ensure that the school's other policies and procedures give looked after children equal access in respect of:
  - Admission to school
  - The National Curriculum and public examinations
  - Additional educational support where this is needed.
  - Extra-curricular activities
  - Work experience and careers guidance

## **TRAINING**

The Head Teacher and Designated Teacher will be responsible for ensuring all staff are briefed on the regulations and practice outlined in the statutory Guidance (as above).