

Thomas Gray Primary School

Children Looked After Policy

The governing body of Thomas Gray Primary School is committed to providing quality education for all its pupils, based on equality of access, opportunity and outcomes. We fully subscribe to the 5 outcomes of Every Child Matters and, therefore the Government's aim for every child, that whatever their background or circumstances, they have the support they need in order to:

- Be healthy.
- Stay safe.
- Enjoy and achieve.
- Make a positive contribution.
- Achieve economic well-being.

For Children Looked After it is nationally recognised that there is considerable educational underachievement when compared with their peers and this governing body is committed to implementing the principles and practice as outlined in:

- DfEE Circular 0269/2000
- DfEE/DOH Guidance on the Education of Children and Young People in Public Care 2000.
- DfE Guidance – Promoting the Education of Looked After Children July 2014.
- S52 Children Act 2004 – Duty on local authorities to promote the education of looked after children.

“The duty to safeguard looked after children, to promote their educational achievements and to ensure they are able to achieve and reach their full potential.”

The 2000 Guidance introduced key measures in order to improve multi-agency coordination and improve the educational life chances of Children Looked After. These included Designated Teachers for Children Looked After and the development and use of a Personal Education Plan for each looked after child.

The governing body is committed to ensuring that the following roles and responsibilities are carried out effectively in order to fulfil the school's duty regarding these pupils.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Governing Body

- Ensure that the admission criteria and practice prioritises children looked after according to the DfES Admissions Code of Practice.
- Ensure all governors are fully aware of the legal requirements and guidance in relation to Children Looked After.
- Ensure there is a designated teacher for Children Looked After.

- Liaise with the headteacher, designated teacher, and all other staff to ensure the needs of Children Looked After are met.
- Nominate a governor with responsibility for CLA who links with the designated teacher.
- Receive regular reports from the designated teacher which should include:
 - the number of Children Looked After on roll and the confirmation that they have a Personal Education Plan.
 - their attendance, compared to other pupils.
 - their attainment compared to other pupils.
 - the number of fixed term and permanent exclusions (if any).
 - the destinations of pupils who leave the school.
- Ensure that the school's policies and procedures give Children Looked After equal access in respect of:
 - Admission to school.
 - National Curriculum and examinations both academic and vocational.
 - Out of school learning and extra curricular activities.
 - Work experience and careers guidance.
- Annually, review the effective implementation of the school policy for Children Looked After.

Designated Teacher

- Be an advocate for Children Looked After.
- Attend relevant training for Children Looked After.
- Act as the key liaison professional for other agencies and individuals seeking advice in relation to Children Looked After.
- Ensure that all Children Looked After receive a positive integration on entering the school.
- Ensure that all Children Looked After have an appropriate Personal Education Plan and that it is completed within 20 days of joining the school or of entering care.
- Keep Personal Education Plans and other records up to date and reviewed appropriately.
- Convene an urgent multi-professional meeting if a Child Looked After is experiencing difficulties or is at risk of exclusion.
- Ensure confidentiality on individual children, sharing confidential/personal information on a need to know basis.
- Act as the key advisor for staff and governors on issues relevant to children Looked After.
- Ensure that care and school liaison is effective, including invitations to meetings and other school events.
- Actively encourage and promote out of hours learning and extra curricular activities for Children Looked After.
- Ensure speedy transfer of information when a Child Looked After transfers into another educational placement.
- Contribute information to reviews on Children Looked After when required.
- Provide regular reports to the Governing Body regarding Children Looked After in the school and relevant policy and practice development.

Whole School Staff

- Have high expectations of the educational and personal achievements of Children Looked After.
- Positively promote the raising of Looked After Children's self-esteem.

- Ensure any Child Looked After is supported sensitively and that confidentiality is maintained.
- Be familiar with the Guidance on the Education of Children and Young People in Public Care and respond appropriately to requests for information to support Personal Education Plans, and review meetings.
- Liaise with the designated teachers where a Child Looked After is experiencing difficulties.
- Give only official exclusions and only use exclusions as a last resort, in line with the local authority's exclusion advice.
- Contribute to regular liaison with social care colleagues and other appropriate professionals.
- Keep appropriate records, confidentially as necessary, and make these available to other professionals as appropriate.

Signed: A. P. Taylor
Chair of Governors

Date: 5/12/17

Signed: R. Ross
Headteacher

Date: 05/12/17

Date to be reviewed: December 2018